

Guidelines and Authorized Use - Body Worn Cameras

The Delta Police Department has in its equipment inventory body worn video and audio recording cameras. The cameras are designed to be attached to the chest area of an officer's uniform.

The following use of Body Worn Cameras by members of the Delta Police Department is authorized:

- a. use at a protest, demonstration or other organized or spontaneous event that is unlawful or characterized by unlawful activity;
- b. use for training, involving the recording only of members or persons who have provided their informed consent;
- c. use in Interdiction Team policing activities directed at gang violence prevention;
- d. use by members assigned to the Traffic Section, in the course of stopping vehicles and engaging with persons therein; and
- e. use by members assigned to Patrol Services.

The limited-purpose use of such cameras is intended to provide a more complete record of engagements between police and citizens than is currently possible through post- event written records, made by officers in their notebooks, or recordings made by the media or citizens with their smart-phone cameras. The use of body worn cameras complies with B.C. Government *Provincial Policing Standards*, and seeks to balance privacy rights and the anticipated benefits of camera use.

Purposes of Use

1. Remote command oversight.
2. Improve evidence documentation.
3. To seek to enhance public trust and confidence.
4. Support police accountability and transparency.
5. Seek to reduce use of force incidences by and against the police, by affecting the behaviour of individuals who are aware of the recording in-progress.
6. Assist in resolving complaints about alleged police misconduct.
7. When used for training, to provide enhanced training resources.

Allowed Camera Activation

1. To assist in de-escalating a situation by seeking to affect the behaviour of individuals who are aware of the recording in-progress.
2. Where a supervisor makes the assessment that to use may enhance operational

remote-situational-awareness.

3. Where violent or aggressive behavior against police or others, or police use of force is anticipated.
4. When issuing a legal notice or demand, such as notice of violation of a court order.
5. Where an arrest or detention is likely to result and during an arrest and detention.
6. When providing a Charter and Caution.
7. Where an offence may have occurred or a charge may be laid.
8. When used to develop training resources, if those present consent to being recorded.

Required Camera Activation

Officers wearing a camera are required to activate it, as soon as it is safe and practicable to do so, when attending an event where the officer has a reasonable belief that there will be use of force, or where violent or aggressive behaviour is anticipated or displayed; but officers are not required to activate their camera in exigent circumstances, where a delay in taking action would result in danger to human life or safety or where action is necessary to prevent the continuation of an offence which threatens human life or safety.

Allowed Camera De-activation

Officers are to deactivate their camera once the incident being recorded, or purpose for recording, has been concluded, and may also de-active their camera:

- a) to prevent compromising public safety;
- b) if recording inhibits the ability to gather critical information;
- c) if the law enforcement objectives served by using the camera do not outweigh the intrusion on privacy rights; or
- d) if directed to do so by a supervisor on the basis of the factors set out above.

Retention of Recordings

Recordings will be automatically deleted after 13 months, unless required as evidence or for training purposes. Recordings required as evidence will be retained for the offence specific provincial police-records-system specified retention period and then deleted. A recording retained for a training purpose may be retained for the duration that it remains relevant as a training aid.

Requesting Access to a Recording

Persons who believe they may appear in a recording made by an officer wearing a camera, may request a copy of the recording in accordance with the B.C. *Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act*, by submitting a 'FOI Request for Information', through the 'Freedom of Information' link on this website.