

BODY WORN CAMERAS



BODY WORN CAMERAS

- Technology is changing the nature of police work
- A body worn camera (BWC) program will enable Chandler PD to implement the best practices in 21st century policing



BENEFITS

- Improved evidence collection
- Reduce use of force
- Improved officer behavior
- Improved citizen behavior
- Expedited resolution of complaints/suits
- Increased transparency and accountability



PERCEIVED CONCERNS

- Citizens' privacy
- Officer's privacy
- Training and policy requirements
- Logistical / resource requirements
- May not capture all elements of an encounter



EXPECTATION

- Faster resolution to criminal and civil cases
- Enhanced public trust
- Decreased "use of force" incidents and complaints
- Decreased liability



BETA PROGRAM

- December 2013 - three different camera systems
 - 2 Provision cameras
 - 3 Axon Flex cameras
 - 3 Axon cameras
- Initial test group: Eight officers assigned to the Desert Breeze Substation



BETA PROGRAM

40 Taser Axon Flex cameras deployed

- Field Operations - Patrol: Day, Swing, Graveyard Shifts
- Field Operations - Field Training Officer Team
- Field Operations - Bike Team and Motors
- Criminal Investigations Bureau - Gang Unit



SURVEY OF BETA PARTICIPANTS

“Do you think there is a value to officers wearing video cameras?”

- 100% of Respondents: Yes

Top Benefits Perceived by Users

- Advancing prosecution/case resolution
- Improving agency accountability
- Reduction of personal liability
- Enhancing agency and community transparency



RBO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

RBO Technology Committee Review

- Image quality
- Download method
- Mounting options
- Battery life
- File retention and purge
- Storage requirements



RBO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Taser AXON Flex and evidence.com

- Unattended download
- Battery life – ability to last a ten hour shift
- Mounting – ability to mount camera on or above the shoulder
- Front end interface allows ease of working with captured files
- Ability to retain or purge files based on classification



RBO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Evidence.com

- Digital files are automatically uploaded to evidence.com when the unit is docked at the end of the officer's shift
- Taser's evidence.com adheres to CJIS requirements
- Utilizes Amazon servers that meet CIA security requirements



CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AGAINST OFFICERS

During the BWC beta program:

- Four external complaints cleared
- Estimated that six potential complaints withdrawn
- Two external complaints "Sustained"



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Collaborated with CLEA and CLASA to develop a BWC policy based on regional and national best practices, PERF and IACP guidelines
- Stakeholder workgroup (*management, labor, IT, PSS, training, records, prosecutor's office, city attorney*) design new program implementation
- Program assessment: collaborate with ASU to design an implementation and impact evaluation



PRIVACY

Will not record when:

- Citizen requests not to be recorded during consensual contact
- In areas where reasonable expectation of privacy exist such as locker rooms, restrooms, etc.
- In hospital patient care areas except when part of an official investigation
- Persons in state of disrobe etc.



PUBLIC RECORD

- Recordings requested through a public records request from individuals not involved in the incident (nosey neighbor) and not subject to disclosure will be blurred out or redacted to protect the privacy rights of those involved in the incident.
- Privacy concerns will be managed by developing data storage, retention and disclosure policies that consider the privacy interests of the public within the context of federal and state public record laws.



BWC PROGRAM PROPOSAL

- Equip all first responders in Field Operations and some detectives with body worn cameras (180 additional units)
- Purchase BWCs, hardware, storage, licensing and five-year warranty utilizing \$911,000 in police forfeiture funds (one-time)
- Add a Police Records Specialist position to assist with redaction and response to public records requests (on-going)



BWC PROGRAM PARTNERS

- Chandler City Prosecutor, Elizabeth Hebert

" . . . regarding the use of body cams by the Chandler Police Department, the Chandler Prosecutor's Office is in support of them. We believe, and have already seen, that these videos will be helpful in prosecuting defendants in the City of Chandler."

- Chandler City Attorney, Kay Bigelow

" Police and Law departments have worked extensively on procedures to optimize body camera usage for strengthening prosecutions and defenses in liability allegations."

OTHER VALLEY BWC PROGRAMS

- Surprise – Currently, full implementation
- Peoria – Planned full implementation, current partial implementation
- Avondale – Planned full implementation
- Gilbert – Planned full implementation
- Glendale – Planned full implementation
- Mesa – Planned full implementation
- Tempe – Planned full implementation
- Phoenix – Beta test process
- Scottsdale – Beta test process



BODY WORN CAMERAS

Questions?





**CHANDLER POLICE
DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS**
*Serving with Courage, Pride, and
Dedication*

Order

E-07 DIGITAL RECORDING DEVICES

Subject

100 Procedures

Effective

02/20/15

Summary

This order addresses the use of digital recorders. Digital recordings are primarily intended to provide an accurate account of law enforcement activities and encounters with the public for use as evidence in criminal cases, professional standards matters, and civil lawsuits against the City of Chandler, the Department, or any of its employees. The recordings can be useful for documenting evidence, preparing offense reports, testifying in court, protecting officers from false allegations of misconduct, and providing a source of training materials for incident debriefing or performance evaluations.

A. POLICY
[41.3.10]

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for the appropriate use of digital recorders as well as the submission, storage, retrieval, review, and deletion of digital recordings

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **APPROVED DIGITAL RECORDER:** A digital audio and/or video recording device owned and assigned by the department for use by officers to document police related incidents
2. **BODY WORN CAMERA:** An approved digital audio-video recorder worn by the officer at or above shoulder height
3. **DIGITAL RECORDER:** Unless otherwise limited by its context, digital recorder includes any digital audio and/or video recording device used by officers to document police related incidents
4. **DIGITAL EVIDENCE:** Includes any and all video, audio, still images, and recordings made during the course of or in furtherance of official duties

C. GUIDELINES

UNLESS OTHERWISE LIMITED BY ITS CONTEXT, THESE GUIDELINES APPLY TO ALL DIGITAL RECORDERS used in the course of or in furtherance of official duties, whether the device is owned by the department or privately owned

1. **DIGITAL RECORDERS ARE ASSIGNED** by the department and maintained by the officer. Prior to each shift, officers will inspect the digital recorder for any physical damage and ensure it is in proper working order. Any damage or malfunction will be reported and documented per GO B-18.100. The immediate supervisor will contact the precinct admin sergeant to secure a replacement or repair.
2. **ONLY APPROVED DIGITAL RECORDERS** assigned by the department shall be utilized. However, if an approved digital recorder fails or is otherwise unavailable, and the officer reasonably determines that audio and/or video recording is crucial to preserving evidence, the officer may use an unapproved recording device. Such recordings are subject to the same requirements as those recordings made with approved digital recorders.

3. **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS** will inspect and audit quarterly a random sampling of recordings to ensure policy and procedures are being followed
4. **DURING ANY AUTHORIZED AUDIO OR VIDEO** recording, officers shall have the discretion to inform subjects when they are being recorded. The decision will be based on officer safety considerations, ability to investigate or obtain statements/evidence, and whether it is impractical to inform the subject.

D. BODY WORN CAMERAS

Officers assigned and equipped with body worn cameras shall activate them as follows:

1. **MANDATORY ACTIVATION:** Unless an exception applies, officers will document all domestic violence interviews with either a digital recorder or body worn cameras
Note: Officers equipped with a body worn camera or digital recorder who do not record Domestic Violence interviews must document the reason(s) for doing so in the report
2. Unless an exception applies, **officers are encouraged to activate** the body worn camera in the following circumstances:
 - a. When an encounter is reasonably anticipated to result in enforcement action, including but not limited to:
 - 1) Traffic stops
 - 2) Vehicle pursuits and Failure to Yield incidents
 - 3) Responses to domestic violence incidents
 - 4) Calls that are in progress upon police arrival
 - 5) Dynamic or forced entries
 - b. During any encounter that becomes or is reasonably likely to become **confrontational, combative, or violent**
 - c. Unless an exception or restriction applies, officers shall make every effort to continue recording while actively investigating or taking enforcement action
 - d. Exceptions to activation of the body worn camera: Officers may decide not to activate a body worn camera in the following circumstances:
 - 1) Recording is impossible, impractical, or unsafe
 - 2) Victim/witness is concerned about retaliation for cooperating with police or refuses to make a video recorded statement
 - 3) Overriding privacy concerns, such as citizen request not to be video recorded during consensual encounters either in public or inside private residences, persons in a state of disrobe, etc.
 - 4) With approval of a supervisor

E. RESTRICTIONS:

The following restrictions apply to all digital recordings, whether audio or video

OFFICERS SHALL NOT KNOWINGLY:

1. Create digital recordings in areas where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists such as locker rooms, restrooms, etc.
2. Record undercover officers or confidential informants
3. Use a departmentally-owned digital recorder to record any type of personal activities
4. Upload, access, copy, or convert digital recordings for any personal use, including onto any type of personal/social media, or for anything other than legitimate law enforcement purposes
5. Use recording devices in hospital patient care areas except when used for official police business
6. Record a minor child, unless the video or voice recording is made during or as part of a law enforcement investigation, or during or as part of a forensic interview in a criminal or child protective services investigation, or as otherwise consented to by the minor child's parent or allowed by A.R.S. Section 1-602
7. Allow citizens to review the recordings in the field unless reasonably necessary for an ongoing investigation. Citizens who want to view recordings may make a public records request. A copy may be provided in accordance with state public records laws.
8. Record city employees except when necessary in a criminal investigation, during official administrative interviews, or as approved by the Chief of Police
9. Record discussions with other officers about case tactics or strategy, either before enforcement action is taken or after the scene is stabilized
10. Record administrative functions including counseling sessions with supervisors or managers
11. Record a critical incident debriefing
12. Record daily briefings
13. Record while attending or testifying during civil or criminal court proceedings

F. DATA REVIEW

1. **INVESTIGATING OFFICERS** may review all digital media captured during an incident or event:
 - a. To assist with the investigation and completion of reports
 - b. For training purposes
 - c. Before testifying
2. **OFFICERS** may review only their own recorded digital media:
 - a. Before making any statements in an Internal Affairs investigation
 - b. Before making any statements in an officer involved shooting incident

3. **SUPERVISORS, PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION, OR COMMAND STAFF** may review digital media to review officer conduct for the purpose of an internal administrative review or investigation, or to investigate an external citizen complaint

**G. STORAGE, RETENTION, AND
RELEASE OF DIGITAL RECORDINGS**

1. **ALL DIGITAL EVIDENCE** captured during the scope of an officer's duties, whether on department owned or privately owned devices, is property of Chandler Police Department and subject to policies regarding review, reproduction, release, production, retention, deletion, and disposal
2. **DIGITAL EVIDENCE SHALL NOT BE:**
 - a. Deleted except as allowed by this general order
 - b. Altered or tampered with
 - c. Accessed, copied, edited, or released without proper approval or as permitted by law
3. **DISSEMINATION/RELEASE OF DIGITAL RECORDINGS**
 - a. Dissemination/release of digital recordings will be allowed only under the following circumstances:
 - 1) For criminal justice purposes
 - 2) For training purposes only when approved by a division commander after input from the involved employee
 - 3) Pursuant to a public records request
 - 4) Pursuant to subpoena or court order
 - 5) For actual or potential civil litigation
 - b. **PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS:** Digital evidence is subject to release pursuant to public records laws. Exemptions from disclosure are the same as for any other departmental records. The Chief of Police shall designate the person or unit responsible for reviewing the digital evidence and determining whether any portion needs to be redacted prior to release.
 - c. **CASE SUBMITTALS WITH DIGITAL EVIDENCE:** The case agent and supervisor will ensure a copy of all digital evidence is included when the case is submitted to the prosecutorial agency for review and charging
4. **DIGITAL EVIDENCE STORAGE AND RETENTION**
 - a. All recordings will be kept in accordance with state retention guidelines
 - b. Digital evidence will be retained and stored on the appropriate storage medium as authorized by the department
 - c. All digital recordings shall be uploaded by authorized means, preferably by the end of each shift
 - d. If a use of force and/or vehicle pursuit is captured on a digital recording device, Professional Standards Section shall copy the recording to portable media and make it available for the applicable administrative review process

- e. When an incident has been recorded and an offense report is generated, the officer shall:
 - 1) Note in the first sentence of the narrative that a portion of the incident was captured by a digital recording system
 - 2) Note the recording in any police document pertaining to the incident, such as use of force or pursuit forms
 - 3) Transfer recorded data onto the appropriate storage medium
- f. Recordings captured during the scope of an officers duties, whether on department approved or privately owned devices, may be subject to release under applicable federal and state laws or pursuant to court rules
- g. **STORAGE OF DIGITAL RECORDINGS MADE BY BODY WORN CAMERA:** Digital recordings are automatically uploaded to the server when the camera is placed in the docking station. All recordings should be tagged with the following information in Evidence.com:
 - 1) ID NUMBER – GO number or other identifying incident number
 - 2) CATEGORY – The appropriate category type to ensure the digital recording follows established retention guidelines. Multiple categories may be added to a recording.
 - 3) TITLE – description of the incident and or person interviewed

H. DELETION AND REDACTION OF DIGITAL RECORDINGS MADE BY BODY WORN CAMERA

- 1. **DELETION OF DIGITAL RECORDINGS:** When a recording is made and has no evidentiary or administrative value, serves no legitimate governmental purpose, and does not constitute a public record (e.g., device inadvertently left on during restroom break or overnight after end of shift) it may be deleted as follows:
 - a. Members requesting a file to be deleted will submit a memo of explanation to their commander
 - b. The affected commander will make a determination and forward the memo to the Technology Manager to complete the request
 - c. The memos will be retained by the affected commander
- 2. **RETENTION:** Evidence.com will automatically purge files based on a categories predetermined retention schedule. Officers will receive notice seven days prior to any files being purged.
- 3. **REDACTION OF DIGITAL RECORDINGS MADE BY BODY WORN CAMERA:** If digital recordings are required to be redacted prior to release
 - a. The designated person or unit shall review the evidence and remove any portions not subject to release
 - b. The redacted version shall be forwarded to the Police Legal Advisor for review
 - c. After review, the redacted copy shall be uploaded onto the appropriate storage medium under the applicable GO or street check number and retained for future reference
 - d. The redacted version will be made available to the involved employee(s)

***I. DELETION OF DIGITAL
RECORDER RECORDINGS***

Digital recordings on digital recorders not deemed to be of evidence or statements taken in a domestic violence investigation which were recorded for the purpose of note taking can be deleted upon the completion of the officer's report

J. TRAINING

OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORS SHALL COMPLETE DEPARTMENT-APPROVED TRAINING prior to deploying a digital recording device, including:

1. Knowledge of department policies and procedures regarding all aspects of proper use of digital recording devices, as well as the storage and retrieval of digital recordings
2. Demonstrated proficiency in the use of the device and the storage and retrieval of the recordings

