

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

September 10, 2026
1.14

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: OBJECTIVES OF BODY WORN VIDEO – REVISED; AND, DEPLOYMENT AND USE OF BODY WORN VIDEO FOR METROPOLITAN DIVISION – ESTABLISHED

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the Board of Police Commissioners REVIEW and APPROVE:

- I. The revised policy: Department Manual Section 3/579.15, *Objectives of Body Worn Video*.
- II. The newly established policy: Department Manual Section 3/579.16, *Deployment and Use Of Body Worn Video For Metropolitan Division*.

DISCUSSION

In recognition of the unique missions and specialized deployment methods of the various platoons within Metropolitan Division, this Order revises the Department's policy regarding the deployment and use of Body Worn Video (BWV) systems. The amended and newly established manual sections update the objectives for sworn personnel and provide instructions on when BWV should be activated to ensure reliable recordings of enforcement and investigative interactions.

Additionally, this directive provides guidance and requirements for personnel in the Metropolitan Division, with an emphasis on each platoon's operational demands and mission profiles. The goal is to ensure consistent application of BWV procedures, enhance accountability, and support the integrity of Department operations across all uniformed patrol functions. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Captain II Karen Leong, Strategic Planning and Policies Division, at (213) 486-8720.

Respectfully,



JIM McDONNELL
Chief of Police

Enclosures

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON

**SUBJECT: OBJECTIVES OF BODY WORN VIDEO – REVISED; AND,
DEPLOYMENT AND USE OF BODY WORN VIDEO FOR
METROPOLITAN DIVISION – ESTABLISHED**

PURPOSE: In recognition of the unique missions and specialized deployment methods of the various platoons within the Metropolitan Division, this order revises the Department's policy regarding the deployment and use of Body Worn Video (BWV) systems. The amended section and newly established manual section update the objectives for sworn personnel and provide instructions on when BWV should be activated to ensure reliable recordings of enforcement and investigative interactions.

Additionally, this directive provides guidance and requirements for personnel in the Metropolitan Division, with an emphasis on each platoon's operational demands and mission profiles. The goal is to ensure consistent application of BWV procedures, enhance accountability, and support the integrity of Department operations across all uniformed patrol functions.

PROCEDURE:

- I. **OBJECTIVES OF BODY WORN VIDEO – REVISED.** Department Manual Section 3/579.15, *Objectives of Body Worn Video*, has been revised and is attached with the revisions in italics.
- II. **DEPLOYMENT AND USE OF BODY WORN VIDEO FOR
METROPOLITAN DIVISION – ESTABLISHED.** Department Manual Section 3/579.16, *Deployment and Use of Body Worn Video for Metropolitan Division*, has been established. Attached is the new Manual section.

AMENDMENTS: This Order amends Sections 3/579.15 and 3/579.16 of the Department Manual.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY: The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this Directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

JIM McDONNELL
Chief of Police

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION "D"

DEPARTMENT MANUAL
VOLUME III
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579.15 OBJECTIVES OF BODY WORN VIDEO. The following provisions provide *instructions to sworn personnel* on when and how to use Body Worn Video (BWV) to ensure reliable recording of enforcement and investigative contacts with the public. “Officers,” as referenced below, include all *uniformed* sworn personnel.

The Department has adopted the use of BWV *for* uniformed *sworn* personnel to:

- Collect *and document* evidence for criminal investigations and prosecutions;
- Deter criminal activity and *non-compliance* during police-public *encounters*;
- *Support* officers *reporting* and *courtroom* testimony;
- Promote *and enhance* accountability;
- Assist in *addressing* complaints against officers, including *those based on false accusations* by members of the public; and,
- Provide *data* for officer evaluation, training, and *ongoing* improvement.

Body Worn Video provides additional *context for* investigative *and* enforcement contacts with members of the public. *However, BWV recordings offer a limited perspective and should be considered alongside* all available evidence, *including* witness statements, officer interviews, forensic analyses and *other* documentation, when *assessing* an officer’s actions.

BODY WORN VIDEO EQUIPMENT. Body Worn Video equipment generally consists of a body-mounted camera with a built-in microphone and a handheld viewing device. The BWV camera is worn on the outside of an officer’s uniform, facing forward to *record* video and audio. The BWV video and audio recordings are stored digitally on the BWV camera and can be viewed on a handheld viewing device or an authorized computer. Once recorded by the BWV camera, an officer cannot *change*, modify, alter, or delete video or audio.

BODY WORN VIDEO EQUIPMENT ACTIVATION REQUIREMENTS. Officers shall activate their BWV devices prior to initiating any investigative or enforcement activity involving a member of the public, including *all of the following*:

- Vehicle stops;
- Pedestrian stops;
- *Consensual encounters for the purpose of investigative or enforcement activity*;
- Calls for service;
- Code 3 responses [including vehicle pursuits regardless of *Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS) availability*];
- Foot pursuits;
- Searches;

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- Arrests;
- Uses of force;
- In-custody transports;
- Witness and victim interviews (except as specified below);
- Crowd management and control involving enforcement or investigative contacts; and,
- Other investigative or enforcement activities where, in the officer's judgment, a video recording would assist in the investigation or prosecution of a crime or when a recording of an encounter would assist in documenting the incident for later investigation or review.

*******The remainder of the section is unchanged.*******

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579.16 DEPLOYMENT AND USE OF BODY WORN VIDEO FOR METROPOLITAN DIVISION. *This section establishes requirements and provides guidance for the deployment and use of Body Worn Video (BWV) systems by Metropolitan Division personnel.*

Body Worn Video Procedures for All Metropolitan Division Personnel not Assigned to Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) or K-9.

Officer's Responsibilities: *Off-duty Metropolitan officers are required to respond to emergencies or tactical situations without delay. When directed to respond to an incident, officers shall immediately proceed to the scene and assume operational duties as ordered, even if BWV devices are not immediately available. Officers shall:*

- *Proceed to the scene and begin operational activities without their BWV devices;*

Note: *Officers are not required to have their BWV devices in their possession when off-duty or while BWVs are docked at the Metropolitan Division station.*

Note: *Supervisors shall ensure BWV devices are retrieved and delivered to deployed officers as soon as practicable.*

- *Document the collection and docking of BWV equipment in their officer log or in the Sergeant's Daily Report, Form 15.48.00, as applicable.*

Note: *Officers assigned to United States Secret Service or Department of State protection details shall not activate BWV devices during protection operations to preserve operational integrity.*

Exception: *During tactical operations involving SWAT or K-9 units, BWV devices may be deactivated during briefings or planning to ensure the operational integrity of the tactics, techniques, and procedures employed by SWAT or K-9 officers.*

Supervisor's Responsibilities: *Supervisors shall retrieve BWV devices from Metropolitan Division and deliver them promptly to deployed officers.*

At the conclusion of shifts not ending at Metropolitan Division, supervisors shall:

- *Collect BWV devices from personnel assigned to their platoon and return the devices back for docking; and,*

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- *Document collection on their Sergeant's Daily Report, Form 15.48.00, or other appropriate report.*

When officers begin subsequent shifts away from the station, supervisors shall retrieve docked BWV devices and deliver them to the appropriate deployment locations.

Body Worn Video Procedures for Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Platoon:

- *All SWAT personnel shall always maintain possession of one of their two issued BWV devices in their City vehicle, regardless of duty status;*
- *Immediately upon arrival at a SWAT incident, officers shall power on and activate their BWV cameras before commencing tactical operations; and,*
- *Any deviation from these requirements shall be reported to a SWAT supervisor at the conclusion of the operation and documented in the appropriate report.*

Exception: *The BWV devices may be deactivated during briefing or planning to preserve tactical integrity. All SWAT officers are exempt from activating BWV devices when responding Code-3, regardless of duty status.*

Body Worn Video Procedures for the K-9 Platoon:

- *All K-9 personnel shall always maintain possession of one of their two issued BWV devices in their City vehicle, regardless of duty status;*
- *Body Worn Video cameras shall be powered on before deployment on any K-9 search, incident or enforcement action;*
- *Before initiating investigative or search activities (including public contact, yard checks, or examination of suspect routes), officers shall activate their BWV devices; and,*
- *Any deviation from these requirements shall be reported to a K-9 supervisor and documented in the K-9 Officer Daily Activity Report.*

Exception: *The BWV devices may be deactivated during briefing or planning to preserve tactical integrity. K-9 Officers are exempt from activating devices when responding Code-3, regardless of duty status.*