



## **Cal Maritime Police Department**

200 Maritime Academy Drive Vallejo, CA 94590

*"Pride Through Professionalism"*

Cal Maritime Police Department (CMPD) has equipped its police officers with body-worn camera (BWC) technology. The use of body worn cameras will benefit the Cal Maritime Academy community and local community by increasing accountability and transparency from CMPD officers while they continue to strengthen relationships to the people they are committed to serve.

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS About Body Worn Camera Systems**

## **What is a Body Worn Camera (BWC) and how do police officers use them?**

- A body worn camera is a small camera secured on the uniform of a police officer, which objectively records the video and audio of interactions between police officers and the public.
- The camera is most often secured on the police officers chest facing forward.

## **Who wears Body Worn Cameras?**

- Cal Maritime Academy police officers, corporals, sergeants and command officials.

## **What Body Worn Camera system does CMPD use?**

- CMPD currently uses the Axon Body-Camera 3 to capture video and audio and its cloud-based video management system (VMS) at Evidence.com to store captured video-audio. To learn more about the Axon Body-Camera 3 or Evidence.com, visit [www.axon.com](http://www.axon.com).

## **Why are Cal Maritime Police Officers wearing Body Worn Cameras?**

- Greater Transparency
- Promotes accountability
- Evidence collection
- Deters criminal activity and disorderly behavior
- Assists officers with accurate report writing and supporting testimony in court

## **When to Cal Maritime Police Officers record with Body Worn Cameras?**

- When responding to calls for police service
- When officers have community contacts pursuant to a law enforcement investigation
- Investigating possible criminal activity
- To deter criminal activity during police and community interaction

## **How do I know I am being recorded on the Body worn Camera?**

- The camera will be clearly visible on the officer. If the officer is taking law enforcement action and is wearing a BWC, you can assume they have activated the BWC. You may also ask the officer if the camera is activated.

## **Are CMPD Officers required to tell community members the BWC is activated?**

- Officers are not required to notify community members their BWC is activated.

## **Are there places where officers cannot use Body Worn Cameras?**

- Typically, officers do not record in places where there is an expectation of privacy such as: Restrooms, locker rooms and medical patient care areas-unless there is a reasonable suspicion a crime is being committed or the location is material to an investigation.
- There are times when officers need to be sensitive to a situation and to use discretion regarding their decision to activate the BWC while investigating certain incidents. Some examples include, but not limited to: Interviewing sexual assault survivors, recording in hospitals or patient areas.

## **Can police officers record inside a private residence?**

- Yes, under the following circumstances: During a valid warrant service, consent from the resident, when the officer is acting in their official capacity inside the residence.

## **What about my privacy?**

- The courts have long decided that an individual has no expectation of privacy in a public place. It is also true that if an officer has a legal right to be somewhere, they can also capture video. This include private property. Concern for your privacy is also why we carefully guard the release of captured videos.

## **What happens to a video after it is recorded?**

- At the end of each shift, police officers upload the captured data onto a cloud-based service to securely store the files. Depending on the nature of the captured video, data is saved for a duration outlined by State of California Records/Information Retention and Disposition Schedules.

### **Can anyone edit the captured video?**

- The original version of the video cannot be edited by anyone, including system administrators.
- Redacted copies of the video to blur out people/objects, remove audio and narrow the video to relevant sections/length can be created by only authorized users. The original version of the video remains unchanged.

### **Who can obtain a copy of the Body Worn Camera video?**

- The release of recordings to any person shall be made in accordance with current Department policy and procedures, and pursuant to requirements of applicable law including but not limited to the California Records Act.

### **What is the process for obtaining a copy of a Body Worn Camera video?**

- These types of requests need to be made in compliance with the Public Records Act and approved by the Cal Maritime Police Department Chief of Police.

### **Why shouldn't all videos recorded by police be made available to the public?**

- One of the most critical issues for people interacting with police is privacy. People often seek police assistance when they are going through difficult personal challenges. Certain groups of citizens have strong specific privacy protection—particularly juveniles. Victims also have privacy protections in the law, in particular to protect them from the offender. The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for law enforcement records was developed for paper documents and never contemplated the complexities of protecting privacy in video and audio recording.

### **How does the BWC program increase police accountability if the public cannot see the video?**

- Videos increase accountability for everyone involved by recording interactions from start to finish and being available to those involved in the incident, partners in the criminal and civil justice system and any government agency that investigate the police.

### **What is the official BWC policy of CMPD?**

- CMPD Policy 449-Portable Audio/Video Recorders