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## **Hartford Police Department's Pilot Program for Body Worn Cameras**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why does the Hartford Police Department want to use body worn cameras?**

Mayor Luke Bronin and Chief David Rosado made acquiring body worn cameras a priority when Chief Rosado joined the Hartford Police Department in 2018, shortly after the City of Hartford and the Hartford Police Union agreed to a contract that addressed the use of body worn cameras. Body worn cameras promote transparency and trust with the community, and they are an important tool to build trust with the public and protect both officers and the public during interactions.

#### **How much do the cameras cost, and how were they paid for?**

In 2018, after an RFP process, the Hartford Police Department purchased body worn cameras from a company called Axon, which also provides body worn cameras to New Haven. The total cost of the cameras, including unlimited cloud storage, warranties, two periodic camera replacements, camera docking stations, and training, is approximately \$1.8 million over five years. For the first year, the city's portion is \$390,250 and the Connecticut State Office of Policy and Management will contribute \$360,251 under a state-wide program to reimburse municipalities that purchase body worn cameras.

#### **What policies govern the use of the body worn cameras?**

The Hartford Police Department's policy on body worn cameras is available [here](#). The policy is based on the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council's model policy and others, including the New Haven Police Department's policy.

#### **How many body worn cameras are there?**

The pilot program will consist of forty officers being equipped with body worn cameras. After the pilot, the Police Department will work towards equipping the full patrol team before rolling them out Department-wide. The Police Department has purchased 325 body worn cameras overall.

#### **Who will wear body worn cameras and when?**

During this pilot program, forty officers will wear body worn cameras whenever they are on duty.

#### **How long will the video be stored?**

Body worn camera video will be stored for 90 days, following the State's records retention policy. If video is tagged as evidence, it will be stored indefinitely or as dictated by the court system.

#### **Can the public see body worn camera footage?**

Yes. Body worn camera footage is subject to Freedom of Information requests.



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## **When will video be recorded?**

During the pilot program, police officers will turn on their body worn cameras when they interact with the public in a law enforcement capacity, which means whenever they conduct a self-initiated investigation or respond to a complaint involving the possible commission of an offense. The body worn cameras are continuously recording, so after a police officer turns their camera on, there will already be 60 seconds of video recorded. During the pilot and going forward, the Police Department will conduct audits of the body worn camera footage to ensure officers are complying with the body worn camera policy. The Police Department is working towards a system where body cameras will turn on automatically when, for example, an officer turns on their car's emergency lights, or if they draw a weapon.