



EFF-Austin

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For immediate release

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Community Groups Meet with APD and APA: What Needs to be Changed in Body Cam Policy

Amend the Purpose and Scope of the body camera policy to clearly state that the City of Austin is adopting body cameras in order to improve community relations, foster accountability for the actions of officers, and deter inappropriate conduct by both members of the public and the police force.

Require officers to inform people they are being recorded to the greatest extent practicable.

Limit activation of cameras

- in schools where minor children are being educated (public schools, parochial schools, charters, other private schools),
- when officers are engaged in general peacekeeping around activities and assemblies protected by the First Amendment,
- in private homes when no crime is being investigated,
- when interacting with crime victims,
- when interacting with people reporting crimes who prefer anonymity.

Give a copy of the video upon request to:

- parents a copy of any video related to an incident involving their minor child or children (protect the privacy of other children through the use of redaction techniques);
- an adult who is the subject of video footage taken in a private space or of conduct that constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by fine only so that the person may make a determination as to whether they wish to provide written authorization for public release of that video pursuant to 1701.661(f.);
- a person who has filed a complaint with the Office of the Police Monitor.

With respect to certain critical incidents (deadly force, shootings, tasers and similar), provide for public access to the body camera video and any related DMAV video in a three step process:

- video is reviewed internally by APD supervisors and involved officers as required by 1701.655(5);
- video is provided to involved members of the public or family of a deceased person;
- video is made available to the public.

Limit use of body camera video for mass surveillance and identification of the activities of people who are not particular suspects in particular cases by prohibiting application of facial recognition or biometric recognition analysis.