



Santa Monica Police Department's Pilot Body-worn Camera Program Final Report September 2017

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Executive Summary

This report describes the findings of a recent evaluation of Santa Monica Police Department's (SMPD) Pilot Body-worn Camera Program. The pilot program took place from September 12, 2016 through March 11, 2017. During this time 54 SMPD sworn and civilian field personnel tested the equipment. The program evaluation used a mixed methods approach to ascertain the usefulness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) for SMPD field personnel as well as gauge department personnel's and community members' opinions regarding the technology.

The study revealed that both Santa Monica community members and police personnel are supportive of SMPD's use of BWCs. All groups believe that body-worn cameras will have a positive effect on police-community relations and public trust in the police and that BWCs will benefit police more than the community. The evaluation also revealed:

Pilot Personnel Perspectives

- Overall, having a BWC made pilot personnel's jobs easier. Pilot personnel reported using their cameras to capture images, as well as narrate pertinent information on their recordings. They believe that the BWC improved the quality of evidence they submitted as part of their preliminary investigations, and made documenting scenes easier.
- Pilot personnel reported they were more cautious in their decision making while wearing a BWC. Nearly half (46.7%) felt like they had less discretion when wearing a BWC but only 30.4% agreed that they were less likely to give a warning when wearing a BWC, 17.4% said it affected their decision whether and how much force to use in a situation, and 10.4% said they initiated fewer citizen contacts while wearing the BWC.
- The majority (73.9%) of pilot personnel felt reassured that the BWC captured an accurate account of an interaction with a member of the public but 63.8% were also concerned about what aspects of an encounter the BWC does not capture. An equal amount (67.4%) said that they and other SMPD personnel expressed concerns for their privacy when a BWC was present.
- Almost half of pilot personnel agreed that suspects became more cooperative (47.9%) and members of the public became more respectful (43.8%) when they realized the officer was wearing a BWC.
- The vast majority of pilot personnel agreed that BWCs can improve officer training (87.0%) and improve the job performance of field personnel (76.1%).

SMPD Personnel Perspectives

- There was wide agreement that BWCs will make SMPD field personnel's jobs easier, improve their work product and investigations, and aid in prosecutions.

- SMPD personnel also believe that the use of BWCs will have a positive influence of police-citizen encounters and will improve police-community relations. In addition to improving the public's behavior, they feel that use of BWCs will have a positive influence on officers' behavior and communication.
- Half (51.5%) are supportive of SMPD adopting a voluntary BWC policy and a third (32.4%) are supportive of SMPD adopting a mandatory BWC policy.

Community Member Perspectives

- Community members are highly supportive of SMPD acquiring and using body-worn cameras (81.5% support). Only 8.9% of respondents stated they do not support the use of BWCs by SMPD.
- The five most popular reasons community members gave for why SMPD should deploy BWCs to field personnel are (in order): (1) to have an objective record of interactions, (2) BWCs protect both parties (public and police), (3) BWCs limit false accusations, (4) BWCs are good for (or improve) public confidence and/or trust, and (5) liability protection for SMPD and field personnel.
- The six most popular reasons community members gave for why SMPD should not deploy BWCs to field personnel are (in order): (1) "none", "there are no good reasons;" (2) high financial costs, including extra personnel to monitor and manage data procedures; (3) privacy concerns for citizens (in general and also in terms of video being made public); (4) officers may be hesitant to act/interact for fear of future judging; (5) camera's inability to show entire picture, could be taken out of context/manipulated; and (6) fear and possibility of video footage being tampered with or hacked.
- Community members' major concerns about the technology are: (1) fear that an entity other than SMPD (such as the media) could alter the footage, (2) limitations of the technology to capture the entire encounter, and (3) the possibility that footage of themselves or their property could be released to the public without their permission.
- Community members see many benefits to adopting body-worn cameras, including having a positive effect on officers' behavior, community members' behavior, and improving the public's trust in officers.
- Most community members feel that officers should not be able to turn off the camera at anyone's request (suspect, witness, victim, member of the public).
- Community members appear to be highly satisfied with SMPD. Nine in ten respondents stated they are comfortable speaking with SMPD uniformed officers, SMPD does a good job preventing crime, and believe SMPD responds promptly to emergency calls for assistance. When compared to police in general, community members scored SMPD higher on every measure.

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Introduction

Body Worn Cameras (BWCs), as a technology-based tool for law enforcement agencies, have garnered a great deal of attention across the nation in recent years. Much of the support for BWCs is attributed to this technology's ability to promote police accountability and enhance perceptions of law enforcement transparency, while also providing support to uniformed field personnel. Given the level of increased attention to BWCs, the Santa Monica Police Department undertook a pilot project to evaluate the technology for use by its uniformed field personnel, both sworn and civilian. The pilot offered an opportunity to study the technology, assess its usefulness in Santa Monica, and determine its ability to enhance the achievement of the Department's public safety goals and objectives.

Literature Review

Police body-worn cameras first appeared in the United Kingdom in 2005 (Associated Press, 2007; Goodall, 2007), and Scotland in 2006 (ODS Consulting, 2011). Six years later BWC were first evaluated in the US by the Rialto (CA) Police Department, followed by the Mesa (AZ) and Phoenix (AZ) police departments in 2013 (Farrar, 2013; Mesa Police Department, 2013; White, 2014). Since 2014, adoption of BWC by US police departments has increased exponentially. According to a recent Major Cities Chiefs/Major County Sheriffs (2016) survey, 95% of respondents stated they have deployed, are planning to deploy, or are currently testing BWCs.

In spite of their popularity, there is scant research on the technology's potential benefits and related deployment issues. Some research has linked police BWCs to decreases in citizen complaints and quicker resolution of complaints (Ariel et al., 2015; Cassidy, 2015; Ellis, Jenkins, & Smith, 2015; Farrar, 2013; Katz et al., 2014; Lum, et al., 2015). It has also been suggested that BWCs may reduce use of force by police officers (Ariel et al., 2015; Farrar, 2013). However it is unclear what effect BWCs have on officers' proactive activity – one study found arrest activity increased for BWC-outfitted officers (Katz et al., 2015) while another found that officers wearing BWCs initiated fewer Terry stops and made fewer arrests but issued more citations (Ready & Young, 2015).

Despite conventional wisdom and academic research that suggests that individuals are more likely to act within socially acceptable norms when they know that they are being recorded (Munger & Harris, 1989); it is unknown whether this applies to officers or the public during encounters. Anecdotal evidence suggests that BWC technology has a "civilizing effect" on citizens and officers. This civilizing effect was observed by BWC-equipped officers in Plymouth, England who noticed a reduction in citizen aggressive behavior when they were present (Goodall, 2007), as well as in Rialto and Phoenix (Farrar, 2013; White, 2014). Still, more research is needed to confirm the finding and explain the causal mechanism at work.

While police BWC have been labeled the “the pinnacle of transparency in law enforcement” (Clark, 2013), this claim has not been sufficiently tested and the assertion that BWCs increase the legitimacy of police agencies is even more tenuous. Although evaluations of BWCs in Scotland found a high level of public support for the technology, residents were not asked about the impact of BWCs on their overall attitudes and opinions of the police (ODS Consulting, 2011). Similarly, evaluation of BWC in Plymouth, England found that 72% of the victims whose incidents were handled by a BWC-equipped officer reported the camera was beneficial, and 81% felt safer (Goodall, 2007). Ellis, Jenkins, and Smith’s (2015) evaluation of BWC on the Isle of Wight (UK) found overwhelmingly positive (84%-96%) public attitudes toward the use of BWC. Again the public was not queried about their attitudes toward the police, only BWC technology. It appears that BWCs increase the transparency of the police agency utilizing them and act as a source of accountability for police officers. However, it is not so clear whether the increased transparency and accountability afforded by BWCs translate to increased legitimacy. While a few studies have found initial public support for police use of BWC technology, the impact of BWC on overall public perceptions of police is still uncertain.

Studies in Scotland and England have also linked police BWCs to changes in crime trends. In Aberdeen 61 of 62 assaults on officers were against non-BWC officers. Had non-BWC and BWC officers been assaulted proportionally, 18 assaults on BWC officers would have been expected. Additionally, researchers studying BWCs on the Isle of Wight found changes to both calls for service and crime (Ellis, Jenkins, & Smith, 2015). While it is plausible that use of BWCs affected the reporting and occurrence of some crime types, more empirical analysis is required.

Finally, in their state of the research report Lum and colleagues (2015) identified several additional research gaps. Among them, we know almost nothing about whether BWC’s affect victims’ and witnesses’ willingness to call or cooperate with the police. Nor do we know much about what impact BWCs have on general investigations and intelligence gathering, critical/officer-involved incidents, or training. Importantly, there is virtually no research on the impacts of BWCs on the larger criminal justice system, in particular court processes and outcomes.

Research Methods

SMPD's pilot BWC program was assessed using a mixed methods approach that gathered data from (1) pre and post pilot study surveys of Santa Monica community members, (2) pre and post pilot study surveys of all SMPD personnel, (3) surveys, interviews, and in-field observations of SMPD field personnel taking part in the pilot program, and (4) analysis of pilot participant's daily BWC logs.

Prior to beginning the pilot program, the police department spent a year developing policy in collaboration with internal stakeholders, determining the BWC system platform, and finalizing the structure of the pilot program, including a process for involving community input. Following that preparation phase, the equipment was deployed by sworn and civilian uniformed field personnel for six months. Personnel all participated on a volunteer basis.

Equipment Pilot Testing

The pilot program equipment testing was completed over a six month period, in three two-month waves:

- **Wave 1:** September 12, 2016 – November 13, 2016: 25 volunteer participants
- **Wave 2:** November 14, 2016 – January 15, 2017: 17 volunteer participants
- **Wave 3:** January 16, 2017 – March 11, 2017: 12 volunteer participants

Although the study was originally designed to allow 25 field personnel to test the equipment for a two-month time frame, the department purchased additional equipment which allowed some pilot personnel to keep their BWC for two waves, or even three. Field personnel which tested the equipment included: civilians and sworn staff, officers and first-level supervisors. Pilot personnel included individuals from patrol, traffic (including parking control), community service, custody (jail), and animal control.

In addition to testing the technology, we surveyed three major stakeholder groups to assess their attitudes and opinions of the technology: Santa Monica community members, SMPD personnel, and SMPD pilot study participants. We also interviewed and observed pilot study participants and reviewed daily BWC logs of how they used the equipment.

Survey of Community Members

In the month preceding deployment of the cameras to SMPD personnel the Santa Monica community was invited to complete an online survey pertaining to BWCs and their overall satisfaction with SMPD. After receiving approval from CSUF's Institutional Review Board (human subjects' protection) and SMPD command staff, the surveys were administered by CSUF researchers using the Qualtrics software program. Anonymous survey links were

distributed by SMPD personnel via web link and pushed out using multiple channels, including the city and police department social media networks, press releases, and a video from Chief Seabrooks¹. All of the materials, including the surveys, were provided in both English and Spanish versions. The survey included 17 questions about respondents' satisfaction with SMPD, 17 questions about respondents' views toward body-worn cameras and possible implementation by SMPD, and 7 demographic questions. It was in the field for 6 weeks, from August 22, 2016-October 3, 2016.

The initial pre-pilot community survey was completed by 329 English speakers and 4 Spanish speakers. Survey respondents were overwhelmingly well-educated (40.3% hold an advanced degree), white (76.3%), older (43.3% over age 60) Santa Monica residents (78.8%). Although these respondents were similar racially to Santa Monica residents in general (72.7% white), respondents were better educated (63.1% of respondents have BA or higher compared to 31.4% of residents) and older (only 13.6% of general population is 65 years or older). See Table 1 below.

In an effort to further increase community input as well as reach community members not well represented in the first attempt, the community survey was adapted to a tablet version and police department personnel went out into the community during farmers markets and community events during December 2016 to offer the survey directly to community members. The initial pre-pilot survey was shortened to decrease the time required to complete it (in hopes of increasing the response rate). Specifically, the 17 questions regarding satisfaction with SMPD were removed and the number of questions regarding respondents' views toward body-worn cameras and possible implementation by SMPD was reduced from 17 to 12. This mid-pilot survey effort yielded an additional 296 responses from English speakers and 12 from Spanish speakers, approximately half of whom were residents (47.1%). These survey respondents were more diverse than the first pre-pilot survey (see Table 1).

Following the completion of the pilot program, the community was surveyed a final time between April 26, 2017 and July 9, 2017. The post-pilot community survey was identical to the mid-survey administered by tablet during December 2016, except that one question was expanded into four to better understand community members views regarding when an officer should be allowed to turn off their BWC. Once again, the anonymous survey was distributed by SMPD personnel via web link and pushed out using multiple channels, including social media networks. This survey was completed by 185 English-speaking respondents and 4 Spanish-speaking respondents, 56.5% of whom were residents (see Table 1). Only 20 of the 189 respondents had completed one of the earlier surveys (11 completed the pre-survey, 8 completed the mid-survey, 1 was unknown).

¹ This distribution method was selected because it was the most cost-effective.

All together 810 community members (both resident and non-resident) completed one of the three community attitudes surveys. Due to the small number of Spanish-speaking respondents, Spanish responses were combined with English responses and analyzed as a single sample, rather than separate samples.

Table 1: Community Survey Respondent Sample Description					
	Pre-Survey	Mid-Survey	Post-Survey	Santa Monica Census	
Gender					
Male	49.3%	59.6%	47.2%	49.7%	
Female	50.7%	40.4%	52.8%	50.3%	
Race					
African American	2.1%	7.7%	5.4%	6.5%	
Asian/Pac. Isl.	2.8%	7.3%	5.4%	15.3%	
White	76.3%	54.1%	66.7%	72.7%/37.7%	
Latino	10.0%	16.9%	10.7%	38.9%	
Native American	0.7%	2.3%	1.8%	1.7%	
Multi-racial/Other	8.3%	11.9%	10.1%	4.3%	
Age					
Under 30	6.1%	16.6%	15.0%		
30-39	14.0%	22.8%	22.2%		
40-49	16.7%	20.9%	16.2%		
50-59	19.8%	16.2%	28.8%		
60 or Over	43.3%	23.6%	18.0%	13.6% (65+)	
Education					
Did not complete HS	0%	3.9%	1.2%		
HS Diploma/GED	1.7%	7.7%	2.9%	81.8% (HSD+)	
Some College	10.9%	18.9%	13.5%		
Two-year Degree	7.5%	12.3%	12.9%		
Four-year Degree	39.6%	32.9%	40.9%	31.4% (BA+)	
Advanced Degree	40.7%	25.4%	28.7%		
Resident (Yes)					
Sunset Park	22.4%	19.0%	11.1%		
North of Montana	15.1%	7.4%	13.3%		
Northeast	1.7%	3.2%	0%		
Ocean Park	23.3%	24.2%	22.2%		
Pico	9.1%	23.2%	12.2%		
Mid-City	11.2%	8.4%	14.4%		
Wilshire/Montana	17.2%	14.7%	26.7%		

Survey of SMPD Personnel

All SMPD personnel were invited to share their views on body worn cameras and possible implementation by the department on two separate occasions. Prior to the commencement of the pilot study, all SMPD personnel received an email, written by CSUF researchers and sent by Chief Seabrooks' office, to participate in an anonymous survey. The survey contained questions about respondents' perceptions regarding the potential usefulness of BWCs for completion of incident reports (6 questions) and as evidence (8 questions), the effects on community members' behavior (13 questions) and SMPD BWC-equipped personnel's behavior (9 questions), general perceptions about body-worn cameras and possible implementation by SMPD (7 questions), and finally respondent demographics (7 questions).

The post-survey was identical to the pre-survey except that one question was expanded into four to better understand their views about when BWC-equipped personnel should be able to turn off their BWC. This survey was administered after the conclusion of the pilot study. All pilot-study personnel were asked to take both pre and post surveys, in addition to the survey especially designed for them (discussed below), as they contained different questions.

The pre-survey was in the field for 5 weeks, from August 30, 2016-October 3, 2016. It was completed by 126 employees (27.6% response rate). The post-survey was in the field for 11 weeks, from April 17, 2016 to July 9, 2017. It was completed by 147 employees (including 20 pilot study personnel), which is a 32.2% response rate. In order to maximize response rates, surveys were kept in the field for extra-long time periods and SMPD BWC implementation team personnel were asked to send periodic reminder emails to all personnel. Because the anonymous survey link was distributed by SMPD personnel, it was not possible to include reminder emails targeted to non-responders (a technique which has been shown to improve response rates), only to all invited participants.

Survey of Pilot Study Personnel

At the conclusion of each wave, pilot personnel were asked to complete a longer survey regarding their attitudes and opinions of BWCs, and the usability and usefulness of the technology. This survey contained 17 questions about the usefulness of the technology for general duties, 11 questions about the effects of the BWC on community members' behavior, 7 questions about how the BWC affected their behavior, 17 questions about BWC operation and policy, 7 questions about their general perceptions of BWCs and whether SMPD should adopt the technology, and 8 demographic questions. In order to maximize response rates, reminder emails were sent to participants who had not completed the survey at regular intervals and surveys were kept in the field for longer than customary periods of time.

The Wave 1 survey was in the field for 7 weeks from November 14, 2016 to January 8, 2017 (last survey completed on December 22, 2016). It was completed by 21 of the 25 pilot officers

(84% response rate). The Wave 2 survey was in the field for 6 weeks from January 25 to March 8, 2017. It was completed by 14 of the 17 pilot officers (82.4% response rate). The Wave 3 (final survey) was in the field for 11 weeks from March 17 to May 31, 2017 (last survey completed on April 9). It was completed by 39 out of the 54 pilot participants (72.2%), including 11 out of the 12 Wave 3 participants (91.7%). Interestingly, all 54 pilot participants opened the survey, but only 39 answered any questions. It is believed that pilot personnel discovered (then shared with others) how to stop the reminder emails without actually participating in the survey.

Interviews and Observations of Pilot Study Personnel

To provide additional context and detail to the information gathered from surveys, researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with the pilot program participants and when their duty assignment permitted, a ride-along observation of their use of the technology. Over the course of the six month pilot study researchers were able to interview 31 of the 54 participating personnel (57%). Initially, the research design called for the research team to conduct interviews of pilot study personnel over two to three visits during each phase of the pilot program. However, in response to the purchase of additional equipment which allowed some pilot personnel to keep their BWC for two or three waves, the research design was revised to allow personnel longer exposure to the technology prior to being interviewed. The research team conducted interviews and observations of pilot personnel on four occasions (two days during Wave 1, one day during Wave 2, and one day during Wave 3). Over the study period 19 of the 25 (76%) Wave 1 officers were interviewed after wearing a BWC for varied lengths of time (four after 3 weeks, five after 6 weeks, five after 16 weeks, and five after 21 weeks). Seven of 17 (41%) Wave 2 officers were interviewed after wearing a BWC for varied lengths of time (one after 6 weeks, and six after 12 weeks). Five of 12 (41%) Wave 3 personnel were interviewed after wearing a BWC for 4 weeks. The researcher conducted interviews and observations until he reached the point of saturation, and subsequent interviews were not yielding new information and insights.

Interviews and observations were coordinated by SMPD in consultation with the research team. They were conducted during pilot personnel's normal work schedules, and were conducted by a single member of the research team. A single researcher design was utilized for two reasons, first, having only one researcher interacting with field personnel allowed the researcher to build trust and establish legitimacy with research subjects. Second, having the same researcher interviewing subjects helped to ensure reliability, as not only the same questions were posed to research subjects, but were asked in the same manner, with similar probes and follow-up questions when justified. When personnel's duty assignment permitted, interviews were conducted as part of a ride-along that permitted the researcher to observe field personnel's use of the technology. Observations lasted between one to two hours contingent upon calls for service. During the study period the researcher was able to conduct

11 interview/observations with pilot program personnel. When a ride-along observation was not possible interviews (n=20) were conducted in a private conference room within the Santa Monica Public Safety Facility, non-observation interviews lasted between 30 to 45 minutes. All but two interviews and observations were conducted one-on-one; in two instances group interviews and observations were conducted at the request of pilot personnel. In both cases all parties were participants in the pilot program.

At the start of all interviews subjects were informed of the purpose of the interview, and advised that while their participation could not be kept anonymous, their specific responses would be kept confidential and reported in aggregate with those of other participants. Subjects were advised that they were free to skip any question and or stop the interview at any point without consequence. The semi-structured survey instrument contained seven questions that were asked of all personnel, these questions were:

1. Why did you volunteer for the pilot program?
2. How have you used the BWC?
3. Have you or others that you know of used the BWC in creative ways?
4. Has wearing a BWC changed how you perform your duties?
5. What concerns do you have about the use of BWCs since taking part in the pilot program?
6. What are your thoughts concerning the departmental policy governing the use of BWC?
7. If you were making the recommendation over how to proceed with BWC to the chief, what would your recommendation be?

When a respondent was unsure of how to answer, examples were given and/or clarifying questions were used to assist the respondent. Respondents were also asked probing questions based upon their initial responses. Questions were not always asked in the order presented above but as the different topics arose during the interview. The researcher recorded notes of the subject's responses, as well as general observations during the interview. The researcher's notes were transcribed to an electronic file and de-identified.

BWC Use Cards

To gauge the impact of BWCs on SMPD personnel, police-community interactions, and suspect behavior, pilot personnel completed BWC use cards after each police-citizen encounter. These cards included four questions about the different ways the officer might have used the cameras, if the citizen was or became aware of the camera, and if the individual's behavior changed as a result of the BWC. The cards also provided space to report issues or comments regarding the BWC that arose during the interaction. In all, 2,117 encounters were captured using the BWC use cards. Two-thirds of pilot participants (36 of 54) contributed to this part of the research, meaning they submitted at least two cards during the study period. A quarter of

participants (n=13) submitted more than 50 cards during the study period, representing 77% of all BWC use cards received. Three officers submitted more than 200 cards each, representing more than one-third of BWC use cards tallied.

Limitations

As with any study of this nature, the current study has limitations. These include a relatively small number of community respondents which were not highly reflective of the community in general. This is likely due to the recruitment strategy, which utilized SMPD's social media networks. This method was purposely selected for its cost effectiveness. However, it resulted in a sample that was less representative of the general population than is ideal. In addition, there were too few Spanish-speaker responses to be able to identify any differences in attitudes between English and Spanish speaking community members. It appears that the outreach methods that were successful in reaching English-speaking community members were less successful with Spanish-speaking community members.

The all personnel surveys (both pre and post) suffered from low response rates (27.6% and 32.2% respectively). While the individuals who responded provided rich information, it is unknown whether their views are representative of department personnel as a whole. It is possible that the response rate could have been improved if invitations to participate had been sent using personal survey links sent by CSUF researchers, rather than a non-traceable link sent by SMPD command staff. The reason for this is that personal survey links allow researchers to send reminder emails only to non-respondents, which has been shown to improve response rates. Also, research suggests that having researchers (an independent third-party) send the link can provide additional assurances to potential respondents that their responses are anonymous and will not be seen by supervisors.

Overall 48 of the 54 field personnel that took part in the BWC pilot program completed the required survey at least once. Thirty-one of these participants were also interviewed by the research team. However seven officers did not complete any of the research components of the pilot program. Additionally, during the final Wave 3 survey that all 54 pilot personnel were asked to complete, 15 opened and then closed the survey without responding. This appears to have been done intentionally to stop these personnel from receiving follow up emails from the research team to complete the final survey, as Qualtrics recorded their opening of the survey as completion. It was within their rights as research subjects to do so but there is a possibility that their opinions may have differed from the others in unique or interesting ways that would have been informative to SMPD's implementation team.

Pilot personnel provided information about more than 2,100 encounters with members of the public over the six-month study period using BWC use cards. However, results are heavily influenced by a small number of officers primarily from traffic and parking enforcement who contributed significantly to this portion of the research.

Perceptions: Pilot Study Participants

In all, 48 of the 54 (88%) SMPD personnel who wore a BWC during the pilot program completed the “BWC-Equipped Personnel Survey” during at least one of the three waves, with 26 completing the survey on two occasions. Over the same period 31 of the 54 field personnel (57%) who participated in the pilot program sat down for an in-person interview with researchers. When possible, interviews included an observation ride-along to see how field personnel used the technology. Reported here are the results of the final survey taken by each participant, followed by the findings from interviews to provide additional context.

The majority (71.8%) of pilot personnel indicated that they participated in the pilot study because they were interested in the technology and its potential uses in police/jail work. A small percent (12.8%) volunteered for another unspecified reason. Some personnel (15.4%) indicated that they were highly encouraged by one of their superiors to participate in the pilot study. That said 79.2% of officers indicated that they would like to continue wearing a BWC. Field personnel’s comments during their interviews generally supported these findings, the majority of participants interviewed were very optimistic about the BWC. Perhaps among the most receptive were traffic officers, both sworn and civilian. Very early the research team learned that, prior to the pilot study, officers in traffic services had been utilizing personal cameras while on duty. So to say that they were very receptive of the BWC is an understatement. Other officers took part in the pilot study for other reasons, some because they believed that, regardless of the program, at some point given the national climate BWC would be coming to SMPD and they wanted to have a hand in the process rather than have it dictated to them. A very small number relayed to the researchers, as they reported in the survey, that they had been strongly encouraged to take part in the pilot program.

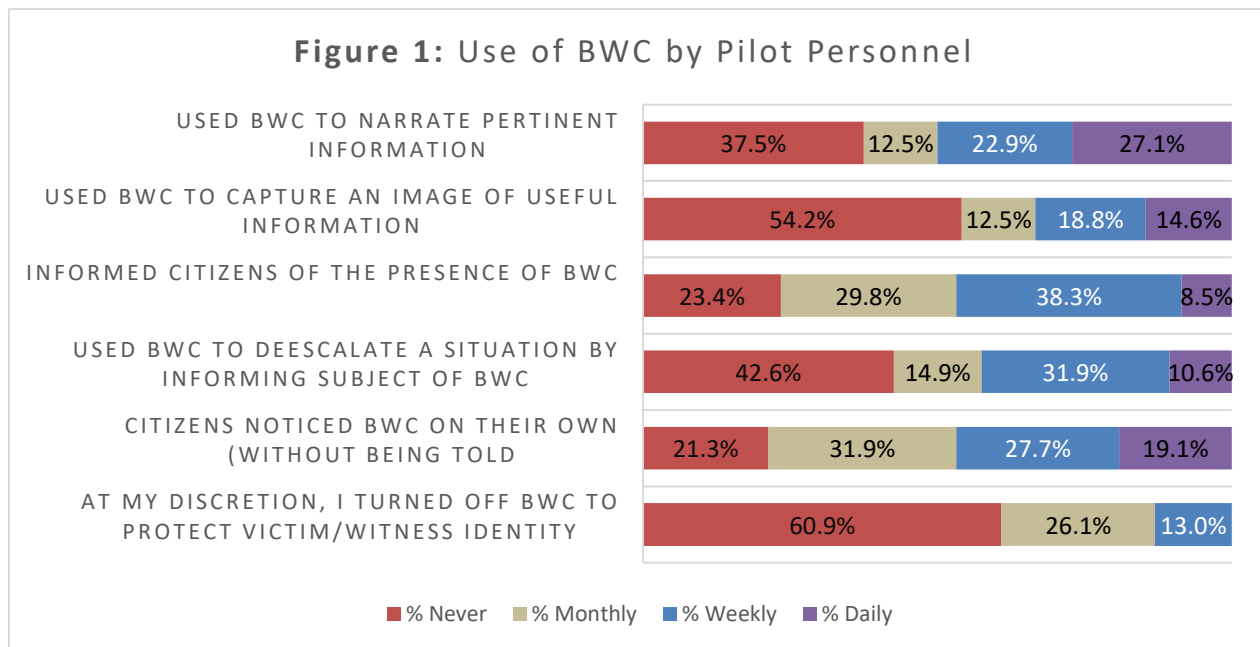
Camera Usefulness: General Duties

The intended use of a BWC is to passively record police-citizen interactions in order to preserve the event as it transpired. However, SMPD pilot personnel also used their BWC in ways not initially envisioned (Figure 1). SMPD officers reported using their BWC to narrate pertinent information (for example, reasonable suspicion, probable cause, observed behavior, or other notes) on a monthly (12.5%), weekly (22.9%), or daily (27.1%) basis. Officers also used their BWC to capture images of useful information so that they didn't have to write the information (contact information, crime scene details, etc.) down in the field (12.5% monthly, 18.8% weekly, 14.6% daily).

Slightly more than a third (37.5%) of pilot personnel informed citizens of the presence of the BWC during routine interactions on at least a weekly basis, while many (31.9%) also attempted to use their BWCs to deescalate situations by informing citizens of the presence of the camera.

However the majority of citizens without being informed noticed the camera on their own (18.8% daily, 27.1% weekly, 31.3% monthly). Regardless of how the public learned of the presence of the BWC, SMPD field personnel never turned off their BWC at the request of a citizen. Personnel did, however, use their discretion and turned off their BWC to protect the identity of a victim/witness (26% used this feature about once per month, 12.5% used it weekly).

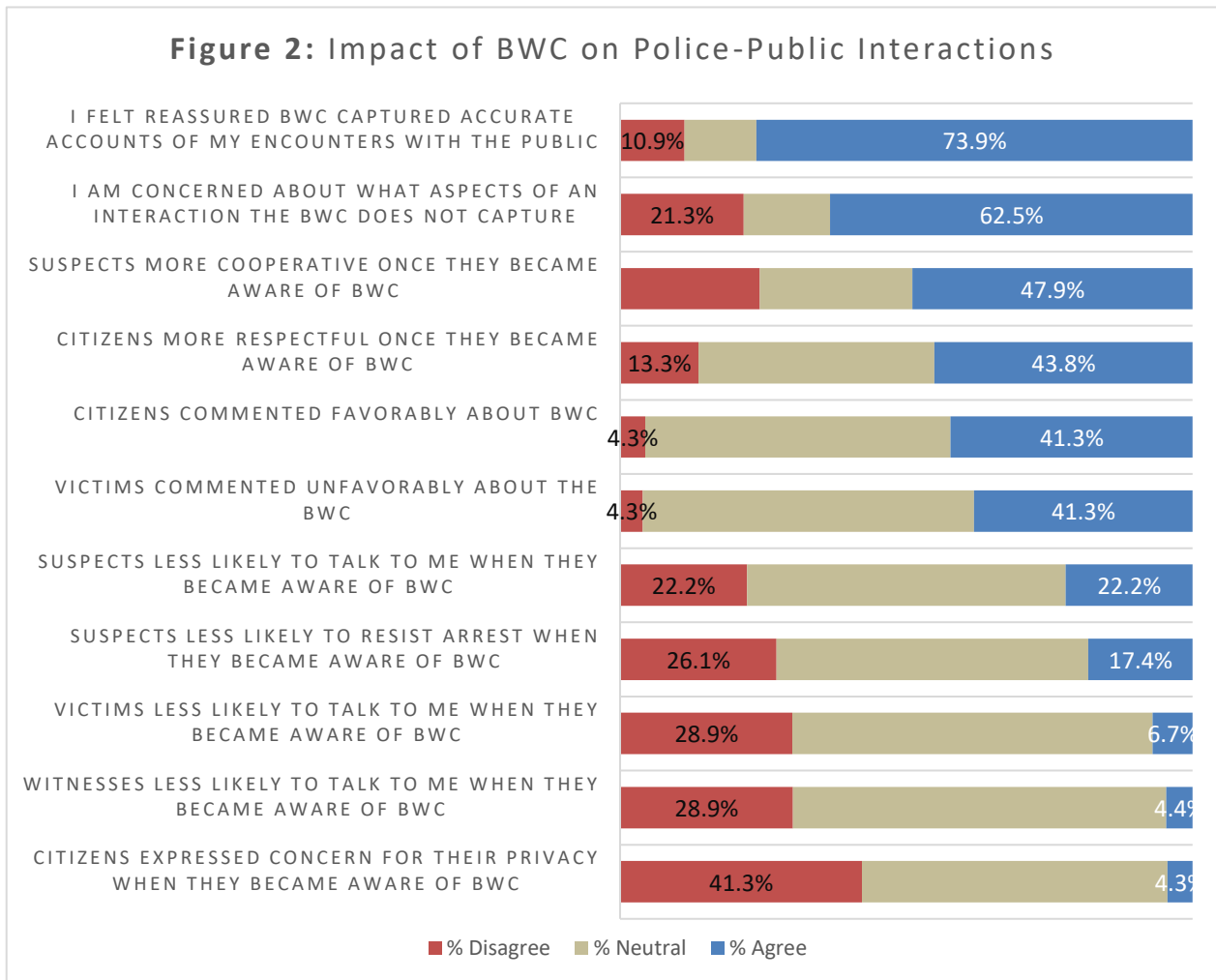
The majority of officers indicated that having a BWC did not generally reduce the time spent filling out forms and other types of paper work (79.2% said it never saved them time), nor did it reduce the time it took to conduct a typical preliminary investigation (80.4% never). Officers did agree that the BWC improved the quality of evidence they submitted with incident reports (12.8% daily, 25.5% weekly, 27.7% monthly), made documenting crime scenes during preliminary investigations easier (13% daily, 13% weekly, 21.7% monthly), and significantly aided/enhanced the collection of evidence during preliminary investigations (15.2% daily, 21.7% weekly, 19.6% monthly).



Officer interviews support pilot participants’ survey responses. During interviews, field personnel related stories about how they would activate their BWC when they observed something suspicious and then narrate what was being recorded and in some cases the development of their probable cause to act. Other officers related that they would position their BWC so they would be able to capture violations in the cameras buffer that saves video footage for the minute prior to the activation of the camera. This was primarily utilized during traffic enforcement activities. During observations of officers the researcher directly observed the use of the BWC during the search of an individual and vehicle to document the possible discovery of evidence. Also observed was the use of the BWC to create a record of a crime scene immediately after the offense, to lock down the location of evidence and individuals.

Community Member Reactions

In interactions with the public (Figure 2) the majority of officers agreed that they felt reassured that the BWC captured an accurate account of what transpired during encounters with the public. (73.9%), but they were concerned about what aspects of an incident/interaction the camera does not capture (62.5%). However the reactions of the general public are unclear. Pilot personnel were neutral as to whether citizens commented favorably about the presence of the BWC (52.1%), were more respectful once they became aware officers were wearing a BWC (43.8%), or that they expressed concern for their privacy when they became aware that the officer was wearing a BWC (52.1%).



Officers were also unsure if, in general, victims commented unfavorably about the presence of the BWC (62.5% neutral), or if victims (60.4% neutral), witnesses (62.5% neutral), or suspects (52.1% neutral) were less likely to provide information when they became aware that they were wearing a BWC. However the majority of officers agreed that in general, suspects were more cooperative once they became aware that they were wearing a BWC (47.9%), but were unclear if suspects were less likely to resist arrest (54.2% neutral).

While officers were positive of the technology and its ability to support their version of events during an incident, and in many cases protect them from baseless citizen complaints, many officers also noted concerns about what the camera does not capture. Either because it is out of camera range, obscured by lighting conditions or cover, or because something important that transpired was non-visual in nature. In deciding their course of action during an incident these are all things that an officer can perceive and take into account. Officers' fears are that these vital factors, if they are not captured by the BWC, might be overlooked by the public in their judgement of police

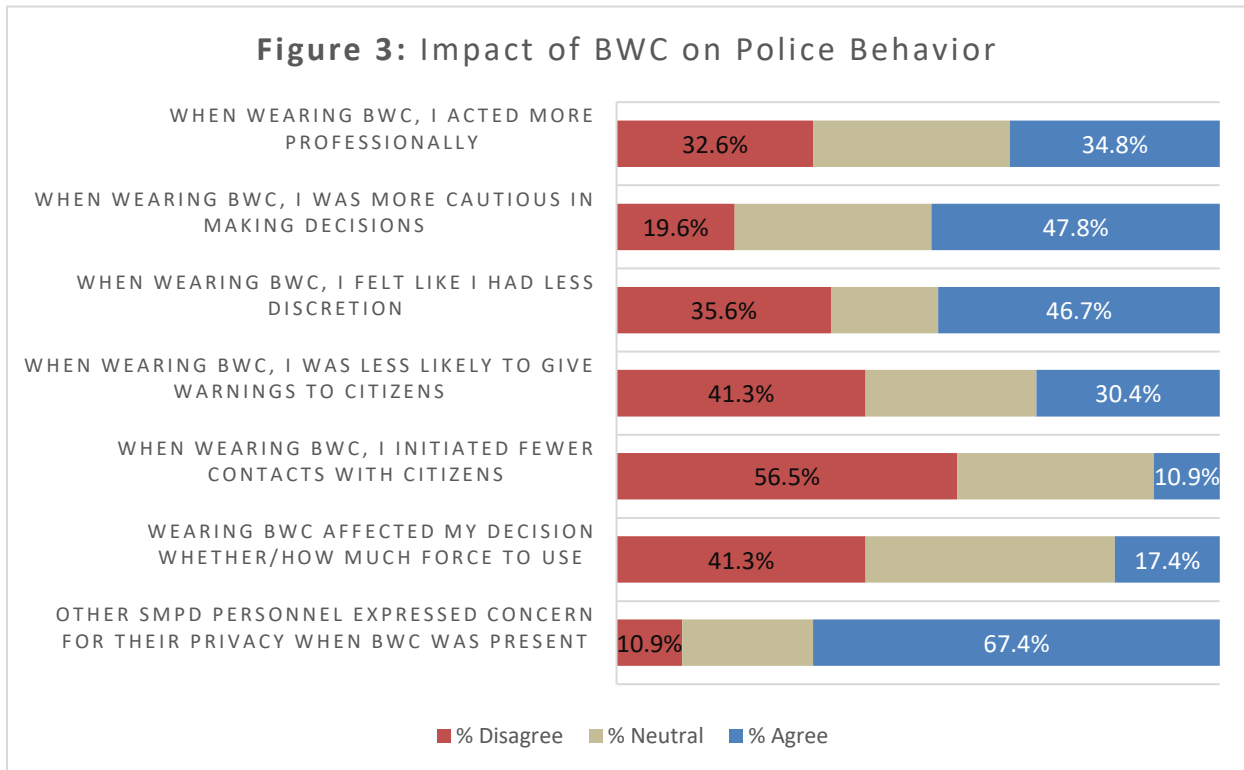
Officers also related to researchers the few instances in which they had attempted to use the BWC to deescalate hostile individuals during enforcement interactions. In many instances the subjects became more cooperative as indicated in the survey results. However, in at least one instance the subject actually became more hostile towards officers. Officers also reported that individuals would often notice the camera. The researcher was unable to observe incidents in which a member of the public noticed and/or commented on the officers BWC.

Camera Impacts on SMPD Field Personnel Behavior

Results in Figure 3 illustrate that officers, when asked if they acted more professionally while wearing a BWC, were almost equally divided (32.6% disagree, 32.6% neutral, 34.8% agree). Nonetheless wearing a BWC did influence officers' behavior. The majority of officers agreed that they were both more cautious in making decisions (47.8%) and felt like they had less discretion when wearing a BWC (46.7%). While officers may have felt they had less discretion, and been more cautious in their decision-making, they disagreed that they were less likely to give warnings to citizens while wearing a BWC (41.3%), or initiate fewer contacts with citizens (56.5%). Officers were equally split over the effect that wearing a BWC has on decisions regarding the use of force. Many (41.3%) officers disagreed that wearing a BWC affected their decision-making and another 41.3% were unsure whether it had any impact. Additionally, the majority of pilot study officers indicated that other SMPD personnel expressed concern for their privacy when the BWC was present (67.4%).

The vast majority of officers interviewed related the BWC impacted how they did their job on a daily basis. This included statements that they felt they had some of their discretion taken away by the camera. Virtually all said that with the BWC they were much more thoughtful and cautious in their words and actions. Primarily due to fear of later review by supervisors. Several officers stated that they felt as if they were performing, or were unable to be themselves. One officer spoke at length that he felt the BWC was inhibiting his ability to connect with individuals because his methods were unorthodox and might not play well on film.

The review of BWC footage by supervisors was a common concern voiced by BWC officers. They feared that their stored BWC footage could be used to “get” them for relatively minor issues at a later date by supervisors.



In regards to the use of force, the researcher was unable to observe the use of force by BWC officers, but a side conversation with a field supervisor that occurred between interviews bears discussing. The supervisor related that what he had noticed was that when officers first got their BWC they did in fact act differently, and in some cases in ways that jeopardized officer safety. He went on to state that when they learned this was occurring, proper tactics would be discussed during briefing. He also stated that after officers had become accustomed to having the camera many of these issues resolved themselves.

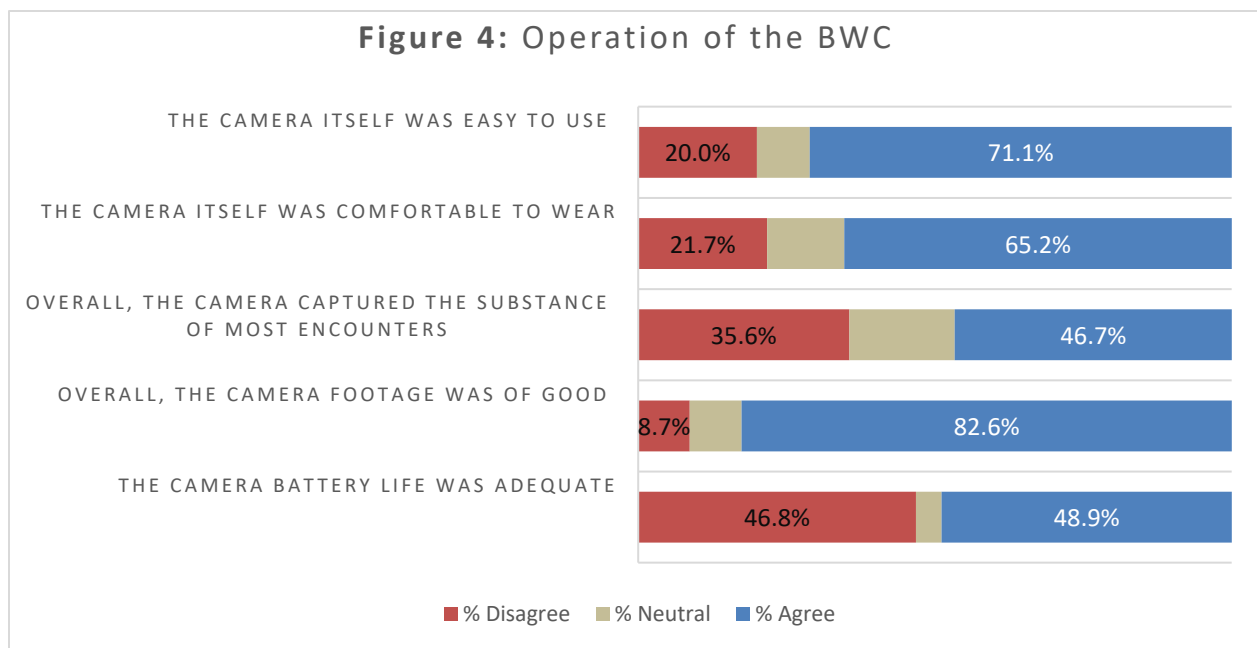
The most mentioned topic during all officer interviews was privacy concerns as it relates to the BWC. To be clear officers were not concerned that the BWC would catch them acting improperly but that it would catch little aspects of their personal lives. One primary fear was forgetting to turn the camera off after the conclusion of an incident, especially one that had been inordinately stressful. For example, what would be the repercussions if the camera captured them vent to spouses or other officers (something people in all professions do).

Officers also feared what might be caught in the BWC buffer that is recorded and saved immediately before the BWC is activated. Concerns were that they might be captured while in the restroom, or that a text or conversation might be recorded. A sentiment offered by several officers was to ask how any member of the public might feel if their entire workday was recorded.

BWC Operation

The majority of personnel agreed that the BWC chosen by SMPD was easy to use (71.1%), comfortable to wear (65.2%), captured the substance of most encounters (46.7%), and the footage captured was of good quality (82.6%). The majority of officers also stated that the BWC never (85.1%) obstructed their ability to access other equipment. Officers were almost equally split between whether the BWC battery was adequate (48.9% agreed and 46.8% disagreed; Figure 4).

While officers felt the cameras were functional and comfortable, during interviews they voiced several issues they had with their BWC. The number one gripe was that the battery, depending on their duty assignment, did not last an entire shift. Officers also related that when the BWC has been filming for an extended period, it heats up. Another concern was that the footage captured in low light conditions can be problematic. Several officers asked for a way to silence the audible beep the BWC emits while filming, stating that it blocks out the audio the BWC is recording. Other officers asked for a means to dim or turn off the BWCs indicator lights for fear that they might reveal their position at night.

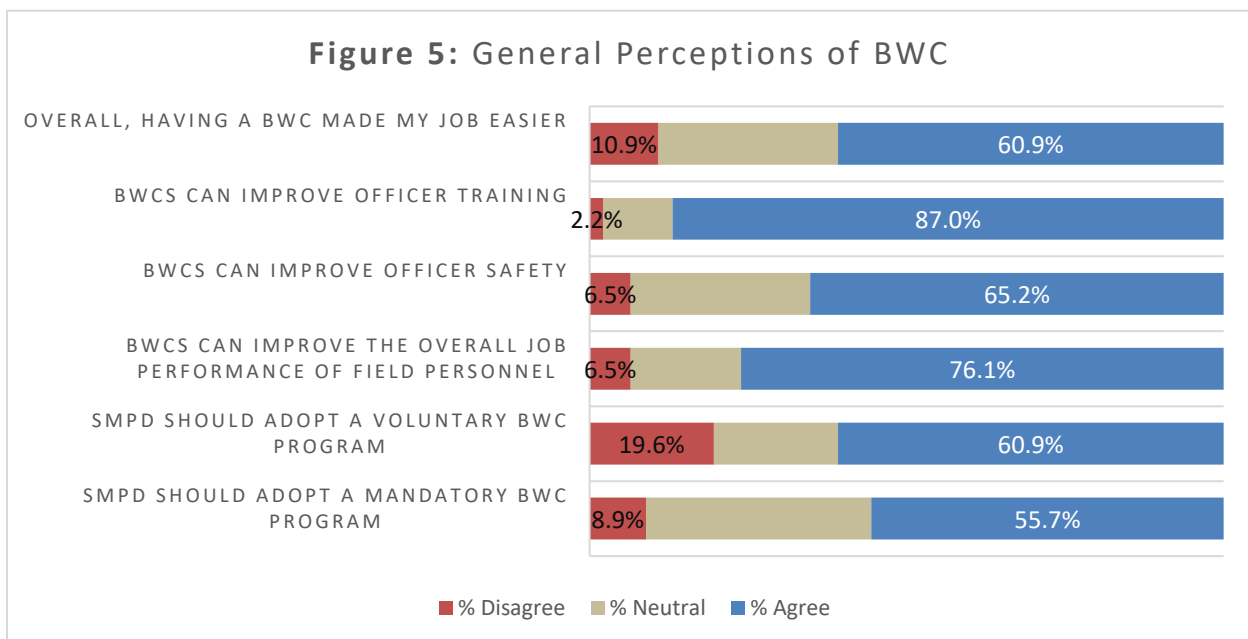


SMPD BWC Policy

In regards to departmental policy governing the use of BWCs by personnel, the majority agreed that SMPD BWC policies are easy to follow (68.8%), were appropriate for most situations (62.5%), and that the policies and procedures in place during the pilot did not limit the use or usefulness of the BWC (80.9%).

BWC officers were concerned with a couple aspects of SMPD BWC policy. First, many voiced concern over which videos supervisors would select and review as part of an officer’s evaluation. Specifically the ability and power it gives supervisors, which an officer has an interpersonal problem with, to select videos that unnecessarily paint an officer in a negative light. Officers also queried whether supervisors would watch officers’ entire shifts in order to catch officers in violation of departmental policies. Officers also indicated that the policy governing activation of the BWC and under which circumstances it should be turned off should be simplified. Several stated that they were unsure of what the policy required in some situations.

General Perceptions



A majority of pilot study officers agreed that, overall, having a BWC made their job easier (60.9%), that a BWC can improve officer training (87.0), officer safety (65.2%), and the overall job performance of field personnel (76.1%). Most pilot personnel also agreed that SMPD should adopt a either a voluntary (60.0%) or mandatory (55.5%) BWC program (Figure 5).

Interviews revealed that while officers do have concerns regarding BWC they feel that BWCs benefit the police more than they benefit the public. Several officers interviewed stated that while they are not highly in favor of BWCs, BWCs are where policing is going so they would rather have some input regarding their implementation than have the technology forced upon them. It must be noted that while all the officers interviewed were generally positive about BWCs, a few subjects related to the researcher that there is a contingent that is firmly against the use of BWCs that have avoided inclusion in the research component of the pilot program.

Perceptions: SMPD Personnel

The survey of all Santa Monica police employees asked respondents about their attitudes and opinions about the impacts that use of BWCs would have on SMPD operations both before and after the implementation of the BWC pilot program. Respondents were queried about the impact BWCs would have on 1) the completion of incident reports, 2) the utility of BWCs as evidence, 3) community reaction to the use of BWC by SMPD, 4) the impact of BWC on SMPD personnel behavior, and finally 5) their general perceptions regarding the impact of a BWC. Reported below are the results from the post survey demonstrating the attitudes and opinions of SMPD personnel after exposure to BWC technology, followed by a comparison of pre and post survey responses where a significant change occurred between the pre and post survey.

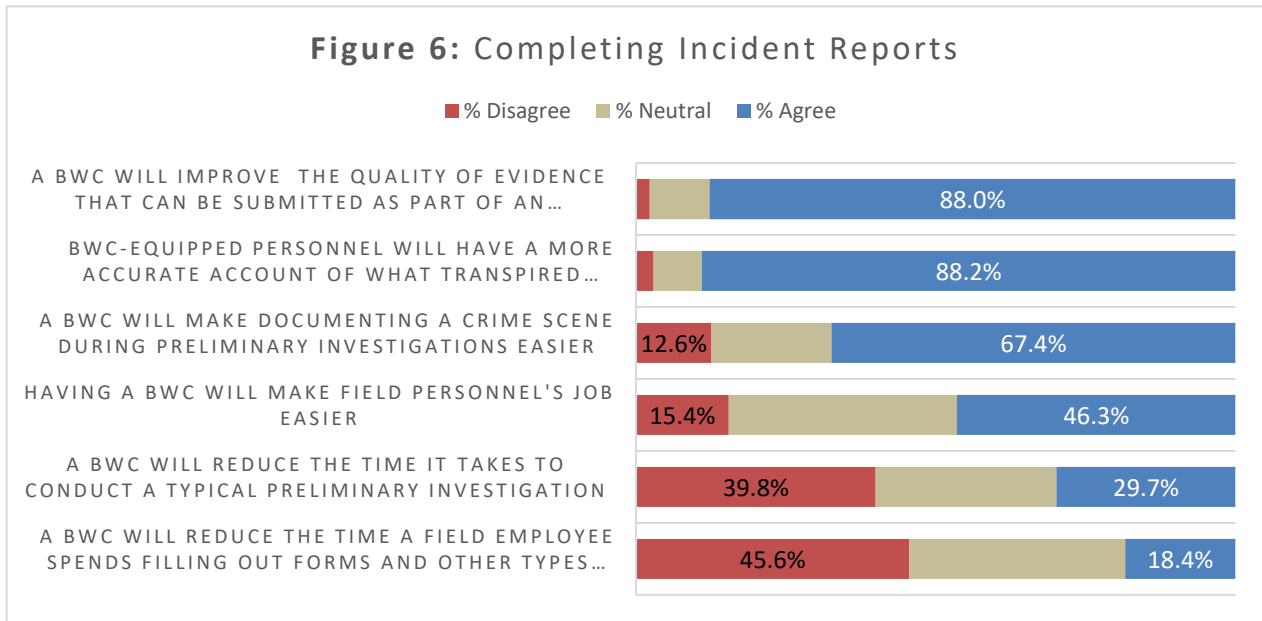
Additionally, the results presented here highlight the attitudes and opinions of SMPD field personnel, and first line supervisors. The responses from respondents with the rank of lieutenant or higher were excluded for two reasons. First, the primary focus of the present study was to ascertain the opinions of SMPD personnel who would be wearing and using a BWC. Second, during analysis of preliminary results it was found that responses from SMPD personnel with the rank of lieutenant or higher differed from line-level staff and indicated opinions that were informed by research conducted by SMPD's implementation team during the planning and preparation of the pilot program. In contrast responses from personnel below the rank of lieutenant evidenced no such previous knowledge.

Completing Incident Reports

Overall personnel responses indicated beliefs that BWCs would improve the quality of incident reports completed by SMPD personnel (Figure 6). The majority of respondents agreed that BWCs would improve the quality of evidence submitted as part of incident reports (88%), would make documenting a crime scene during preliminary investigations easier (67.4%), would make field personnel's job easier (46.3%), and that BWC-equipped personnel will have a more accurate account of what transpired during an encounter. SMPD personnel disagreed that the BWC would reduce the time it takes field personnel to conduct a typical preliminary investigation (39.8%) or reduce the time field employees spend filling out forms and other types of paper work (45.6%).

The exposure of personnel to BWCs during the pilot program significantly affected respondents' opinions. Prior to implementation of the pilot program roughly (69%) of respondents disagreed that a BWC would reduce the time a field employee spends filling out forms and other types of paper work, post-pilot disagreement that BWC would have an effect decreased to 23.8%, with corresponding increases in officers that were either uncertain (36% post) of BWCs impact or

agreement (18.4% post) that BWC would reduce the time a field employee spends filling out forms and other types of paper work.



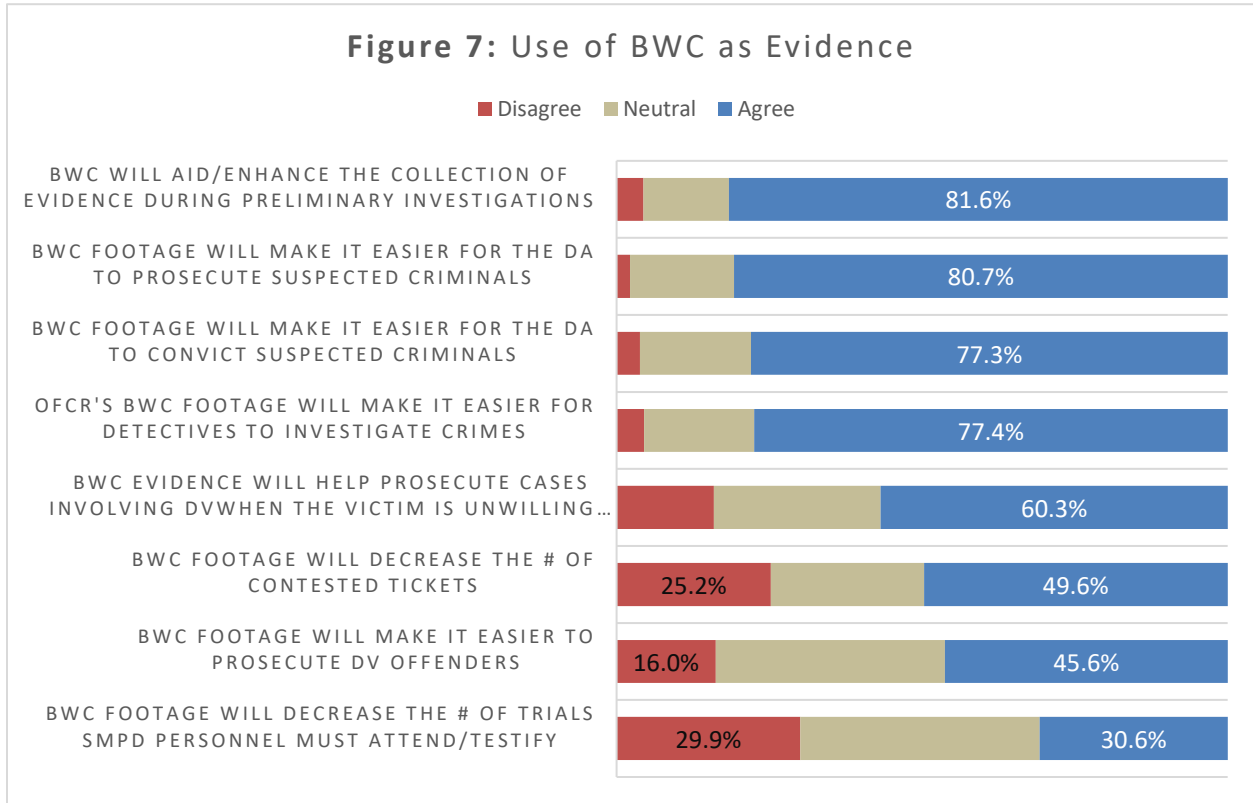
Likewise respondents’ opinions whether a BWC would reduce the time it takes to conduct a typical preliminary investigation was influenced by the BWC pilot program. Prior to the pilot 59.8% of respondents disagreed that BWC would reduce the time it takes to conduct a typical preliminary investigation. After the pilot, only 39.8% of personnel disagreed (a 20 percentage point decrease) while the percentage of respondents that were uncertain (30.5%) of the impact, and the percentage who agreed (29.7%) a BWC would reduce the time it takes to conduct a typical preliminary investigation increased.

Use of BWC as Evidence

Respondents were generally positive regarding the impact BWC evidence would have on the investigation and prosecution of criminal cases (Figure 7). The overwhelming majority of personnel agreed that the use BWCs would aid/enhance the collection of evidence during preliminary investigations (81.6%) and that BWC footage from field personnel would make it easier for SMPD detectives to investigate crimes (77.3%), as well as make it easier for the District Attorney to prosecute (80.7%) and convict (77.4%) suspected criminals. To a lesser extent, the majority of respondents also agreed that having BWC footage would decrease the number of tickets the public contested (49.6%), make it easier to prosecute domestic violence offenders (45.6%), as well as help prosecute cases involving domestic violence when the victim is unwilling to testify (60.3%).

Exposure to BWCs significantly changed personnel’s opinions regarding the impact BWC footage would have on the number of trials SMPD personnel were required to attend/testify at; prior to the pilot 47.2% of personnel disagreed that BWC would decrease the number of trials requiring

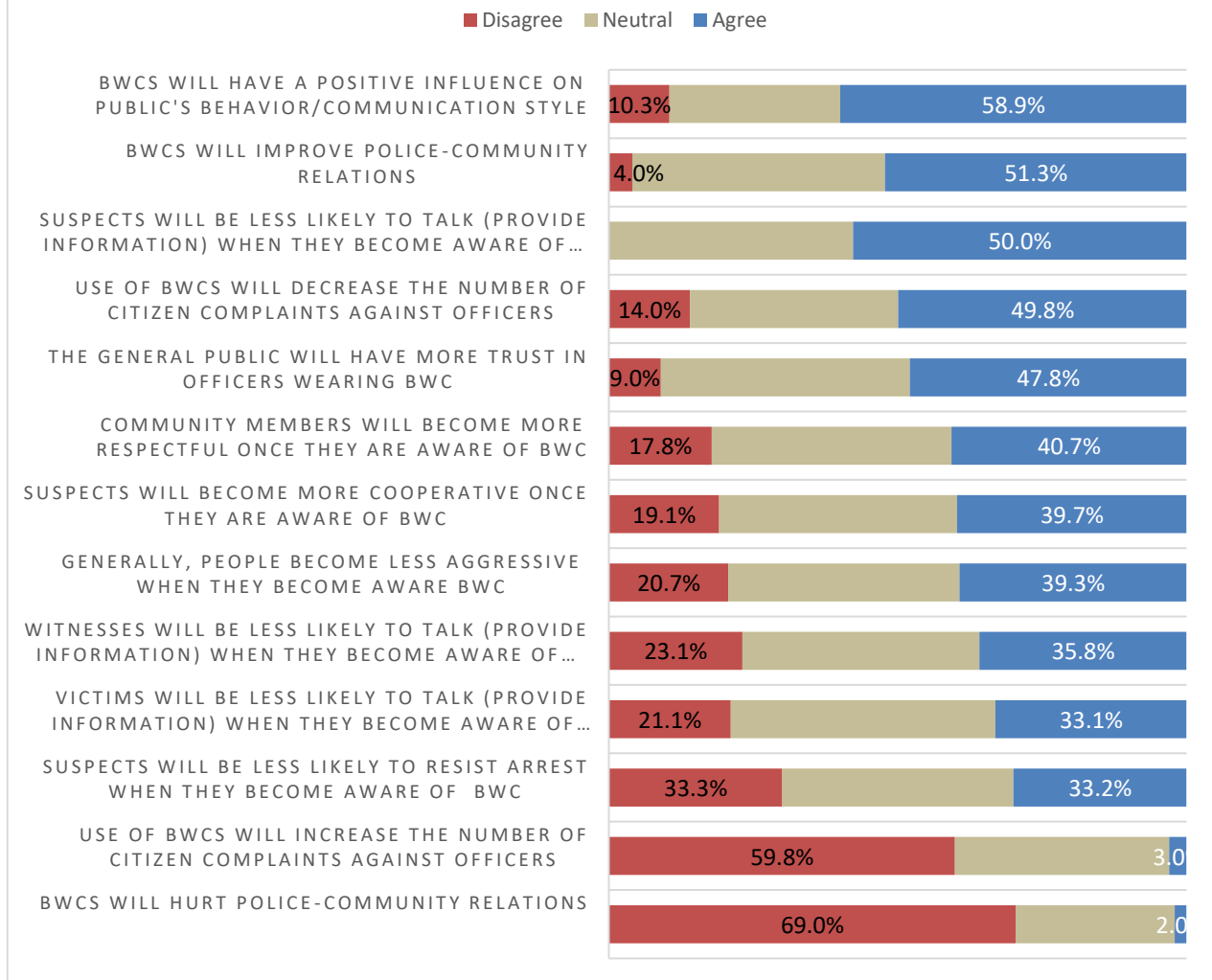
SMPD personnel participation. Post pilot, 30.6% agreed (up from 19.4%) that BWC would decrease the number of trials requiring SMPD personnel’s participation. Still, 39% of post-pilot respondents were uncertain and 29.9% disagreed that having BWCs would decrease the number of trials requiring SMPD personnel to attend and testify.



Community Reactions

Overall SMPD personnel thought that BWCs would have a positive impact on the relationship between SMPD and the community, though they were uncertain of the specific impact BWCs would have (Figure 8). The majority of personnel agreed that having SMPD field personnel wear a BWC would improve police-community relations (51.3%). The overwhelming majority felt having SMPD field personnel wear body cameras would not hurt police-community relations (69.9%). While a lesser majority agreed (49.3%) that use of BWCs would decrease the number of citizen complaints against officers. A larger majority (59.8%) felt that the use of BWCs would not increase the number of citizen complaints against officers. Though SMPD personnel were split between agreeing (47.8%) that the general public would have more trust in officers who are wearing body cameras, and uncertainty (43.3%) of their impact on public trust in the police. Respondents were likewise split between agreement (40.7%) and uncertainty (41.5%) that community members will become more respectful once they are aware that a field personnel is wearing a BWC. SMPD personnel were also torn between uncertainty (40.0%) and agreement (39.3%) as to whether people would become less aggressive when they became aware that a BWC is being used.

Figure 8: The Impact of BWC on Community Relations

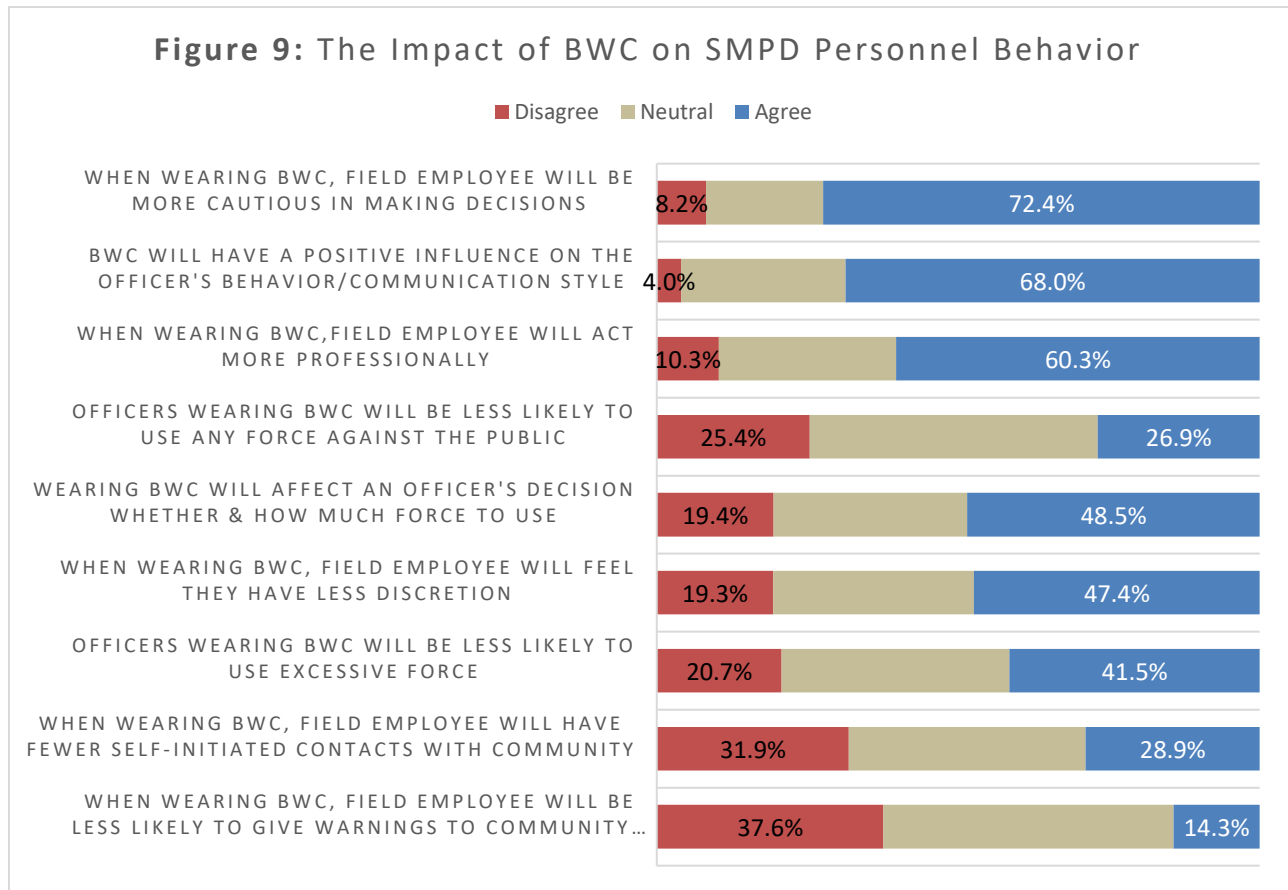


Transitioning to the impact of BWC on police-citizen encounters, the majority of SMPD personnel agreed (58.9%) that in an interaction between a police officer and a member of the public, BWC will have a positive influence on the public's behavior. The majority (50.0%) of personnel also agreed that suspects would be less likely to provide information to SMPD field personnel when they become aware that a BWC is being used, however they were unsure if suspects would become more cooperative (41.2%), or less likely to resist arrest (44.4%) when they become aware that a field personnel is wearing a BWC. However many agreed (39.7%) that suspects would become more cooperative and disagreed (33.3%) that they would be less likely to resist arrest when they become aware that a field personnel is wearing a BWC.

Beyond the impact of BWCs on suspects, many SMPD personnel were uncertain if victims (45.9%) and witnesses (41.0%) would be less likely to provide information to SMPD field personnel when they become aware that a BWC is being used. About one-third of respondents agreed that both victims (33.1%) and witnesses (35.8%) would be less likely to provide information to SMPD field personnel when they become aware that a BWC is being used.

SMPD Personnel Behavior

The majority of SMPD personnel agreed that in an interaction between a police officer and a member of the public, BWCs will have a positive influence on the officer's behavior (68.1%), and that while wearing a BWC field employees will act more professionally (60.3%). Even more so than pilot personnel, the overwhelming majority of SMPD personnel agreed that when wearing a BWC, field employees would be more cautious in making decisions (72.4%), and would feel they have less discretion (47.4%).

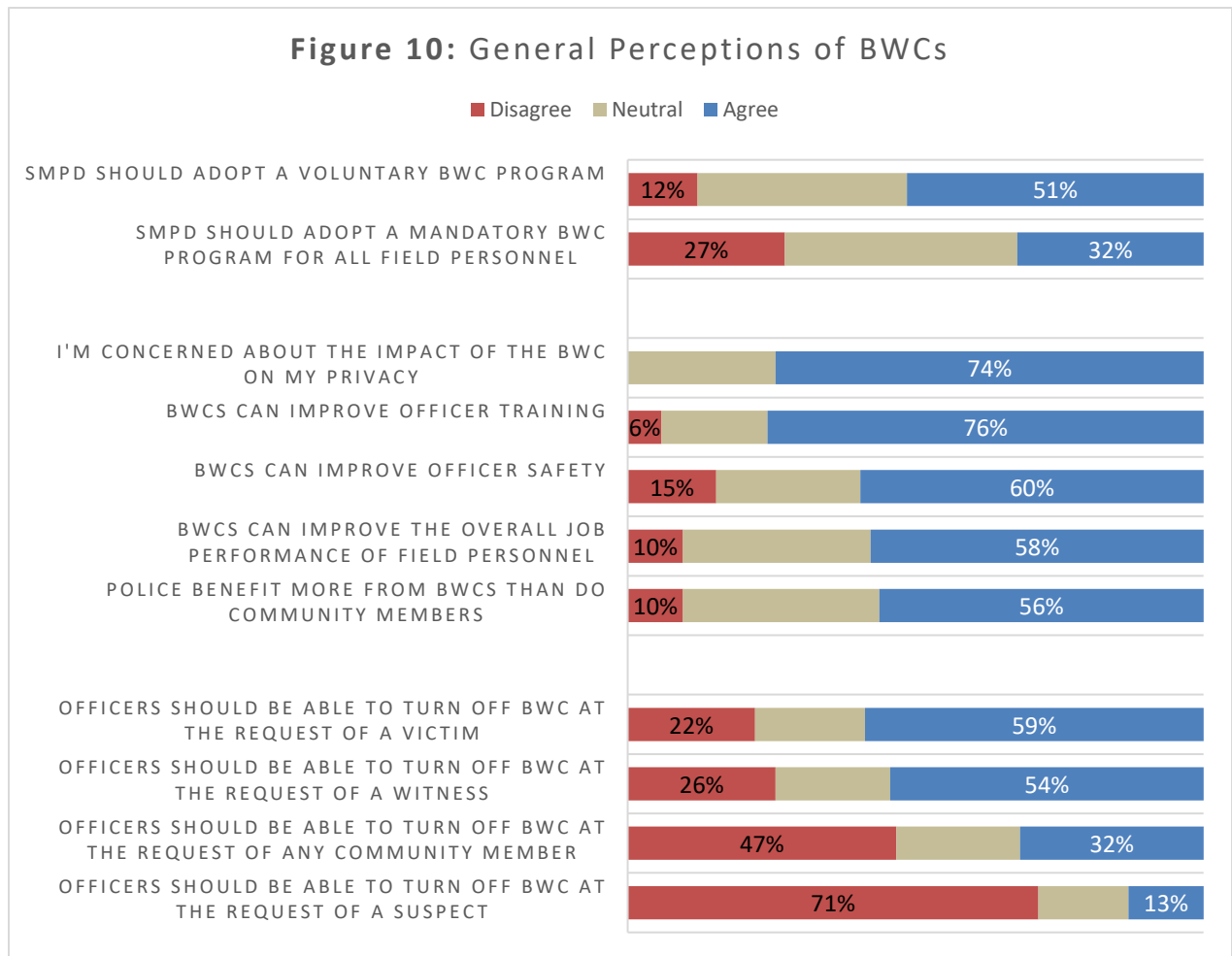


While most respondents were unsure (39.3%) if field employees wearing a BWC would have fewer self-initiated contacts with community members, remaining personnel were almost equally split between agreeing (28.9%) and disagreeing (31.9%) that BWC-equipped field employees would have fewer self-initiated contacts with community members. Most personnel were also uncertain (48.1%) if BWC-equipped field employees would be less likely to give warnings to community members; 37.6% of personnel disagreed that field employees would be less likely to give warnings to community members.

Regarding the impact of BWCs on officers' use of force decisions (Figure 9), many (48.5%) agreed that wearing a BWC would have an affect an officer's decision on whether and how much force to use in an incident, while a smaller group was unsure (32.1%) if the BWC would

affect officer use of force decisions. Likewise many (41.5%) agreed that officers wearing a BWC would be less likely to use excessive force than would officers without a BWC, while 37.8% of personnel were unsure. On the opposite side of the force spectrum, many respondents were unsure (47.8%) if officers wearing a BWC would be less likely to use any force against the public than would officers without a BWC; the remaining respondents were split between agreeing (26.9%) and disagreeing (25.4%) that officers wearing a BWC would be less likely to use any force against the public than would officers without a BWC.

General Perceptions



The majority of SMPD personnel agreed that the police benefit more from BWCs than do community members (56.3%), and that BWCs can improve officer training (75.7%), safety (59.6%), and overall job performance (57.8%). While the majority of personnel agreed that officers should have the ability to turn off the video recording at the request of a victim (58.8%), or witness (54.4%), they strongly disagreed that officers should have the ability to turn off the video recording at the request of a suspect (71.1%), or to a lesser extent any member of the community (46.7%). The overwhelming majority of SMPD personnel agreed that they are concerned about the impact of the BWCs on their privacy (comparison of pre and post pilot

responses illustrated that exposure to BWC significantly increased the number of personnel who expressed concern for their privacy from 61.1% to 74.3% with no respondents in disagreement and roughly one-fourth unsure. Finally, while the majority of SMPD personnel agreed (51.5%) that SMPD should adopt a voluntary BWC program, while only 32.4% agreed that SMPD should adopt a mandatory BWC program for all field personnel (Figure 10).

Perceptions: Community Members

Santa Monica community members were surveyed about their views towards body-worn cameras and SMPD's possible adoption of the technology on three separate occasions. The pre-pilot survey was administered in September 2016 (electronic survey links were distributed via social media and email), the mid-pilot survey was administered by SMPD personnel in soft uniforms (polo shirts) using tablets at community events during December 2016, and the post-pilot survey was administered via social media and email invites in May-June 2017. The results reported below are combined from all three surveys and include all survey responses (826 total)². Statistically significant differences between surveys are reported in the text. Only about one-quarter of respondents were aware of SMPD's pilot BWC study and this was consistent from pre- to post- surveys.

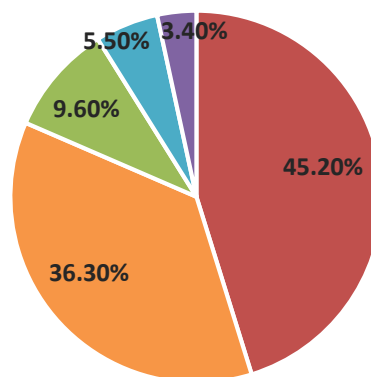
Overall Support

More than eight in ten (81.5%) respondents expressed support for SMPD's use of body worn cameras. Almost half (45.2%) of respondents strongly supported use of the technology. Only 8.9% of respondents stated they do not support use of BWCs by SMPD.

Pre-pilot survey respondents were asked two open ended questions "From your perspective, what are some of the reasons that SMPD should (should not) deploy body cameras to field personnel?" The five most popular reasons respondents gave for why SMPD should deploy BWCs to field personnel were (in order):

- Have an objective record of interactions
- Protects both parties
- Limits false accusations
- Good for (or improves) public confidence and/or trust
- Liability protection for SMPD and field personnel

Figure 11: Level of support for SMPD obtaining BWCs



■ Strongly support
■ Support
■ I'm not sure
■ Do not support
■ Strongly do not support

² Twenty individuals indicated on the post-survey that they had also completed either the pre- or mid- survey. Thus, those individuals' views are double-counted, as there was no way to identify their initial responses given the anonymous nature of the survey. It is possible that their views could have changed between survey responses.

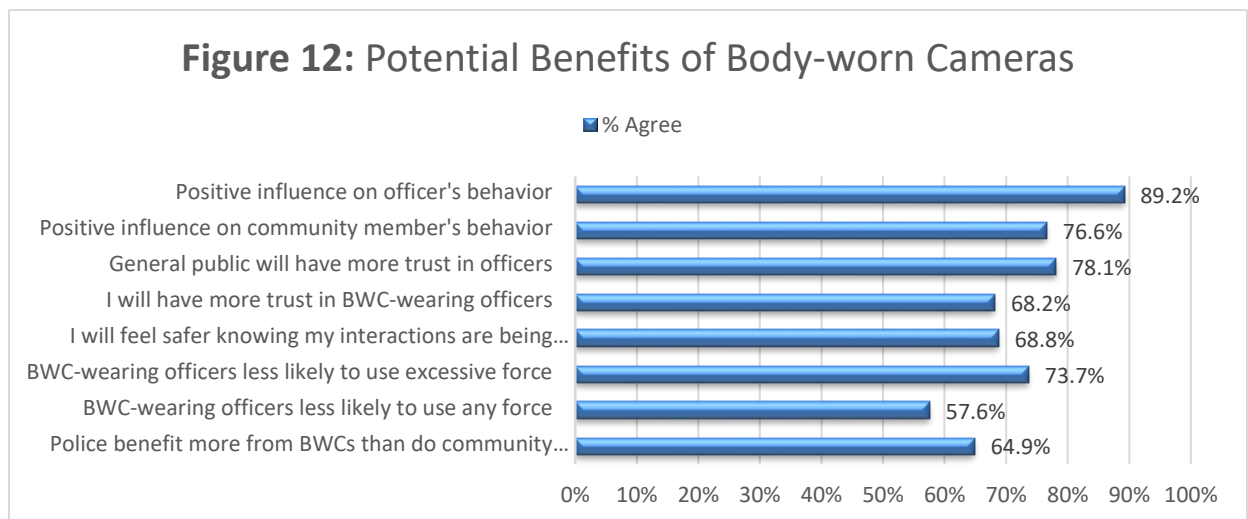
Other popular reasons: better behavior by both parties, accountability, encourage/reward good behavior, prevent unreasonable use of force by officers, and as additional evidence.

When asked why SMPD should not deploy body cameras to field personnel, about a third of respondents stated “none”, “there are no good reasons.” For the two-thirds who did provide a reason, the most popular reasons were:

- High financial costs, including extra personnel to monitor and manage data procedures
- Privacy concerns – citizens (in general and also in terms of video being made public)
- Officers may be hesitant to act/interact for fear of future judging
- Camera’s inability to show entire picture, could be taken out of context/manipulated
- Fear and possibility of video footage being tampered with or hacked

Other concerns that were mentioned multiple times included: the possibility that some members of the public will choose not to interact with officers wearing a camera and that BWCs could lead to the erosion of public trust, the potential for footage to be manipulated by the media, the need for strong policies to protect citizens and officers, fear that officers will think they are not trusted, concerns for officers’ privacy, and unrealistic expectations of BWCs to fix old, longstanding police-community relations problems (they are a technical fix only). See Attachments A and B for a list of all responses to both questions.

Potential Benefits of Body-worn Cameras



BWCs effect on individual behavior

As indicated in Figure 12 above, almost all (89.2%) respondents agreed that body-worn cameras would have a positive influence of an officer’s behavior. The percentage of respondents who agreed with this statement increased significantly from pre to post surveys (88.1% pre, 85.8% mid, 96.1% post). Interestingly, slightly fewer (76.6%) respondents agreed

that BWCs would have a positive impact on community members' behavior. About three-quarters (73.7%) of respondents agreed that wearing a BWC would make officers less likely to use excessive force. A majority (57.6%) also believed that wearing a BWC would make officers less likely to use any force against the public. Thus, community members appear to recognize that BWCs may change how officers exercise discretion and use force. Although this sounds like a good thing, if officers second-guess themselves when considering the use of an appropriate and necessary amount of force to subdue a subject, it could result in injury or even death to the officer or another member of the public.

BWCs effect on trust and feelings of safety

Two-thirds of respondents agreed that they would have greater trust in officers wearing a BWC (68.2%) and that they would feel safer knowing their interactions with police officers are being recorded (68.8%). An even larger percentage (78.1%) believe that other community members would have more trust in BWC-wearing officers.

The percentage of respondents which agreed with these statements increased with each successive survey (all statistically significant). For example, 71.9% of pre-pilot respondents agreed that the general public would have more trust in BWC-wearing officers, while 79.8% of mid-pilot survey respondents, and 85.9% of post-pilot survey respondents agreed. Similarly, 61.6% of pre-pilot survey respondents agreed they would have more trust in BWC-equipped officers in comparison to 71.1% of mid-pilot survey respondents and 74.9% of post-pilot survey respondents. Again, the percentage of respondents which agreed that they would feel safer knowing their interactions with police officers are being recorded increased incrementally with each successive survey (60.5%, 72.6%, and 76.8% respectively).

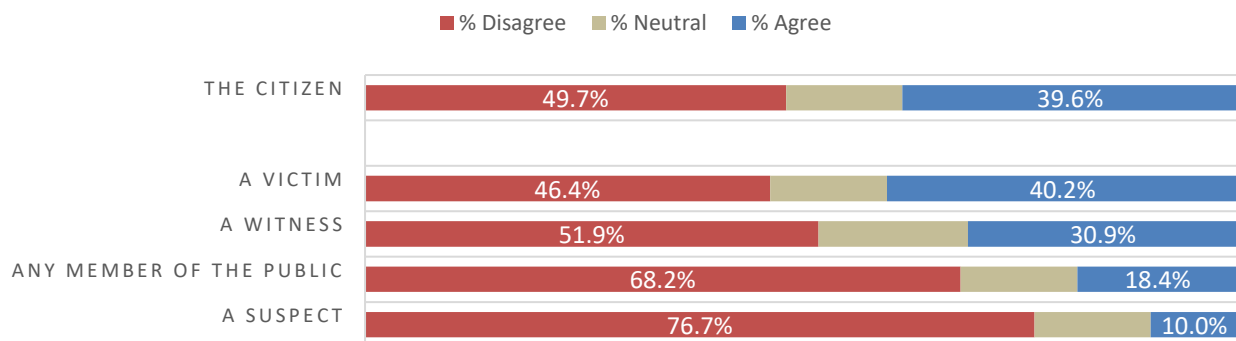
It's unclear the reason for these statistically significant differences. However, it may be a result of the different samples. It is possible that the post-pilot survey respondents are less trusting of law enforcement in general, or SMPD specifically, than either of the pre or mid pilot survey respondents.

Recording Discretion

Respondents were asked whether officers should have the ability to turn off the video recording at the request of certain individuals. The pre and mid surveys asked about this using one question, which asked about turning off the recording at the request of "the citizen." As can be seen in Figure 13, 39.6% of respondents agreed that officers should be able to use discretion to turn off the recording in this case. As this question was not very specific, the research team expanded the question into four separate questions on the post survey. This allowed us to better understand which specific members of the public, respondents felt should be able to request turning off the recording during an interaction with SMPD personnel.

Figure 13: Officer Discretion Regarding BWC Operation

"Officers should have the ability to turn off BWC at the request of ..."



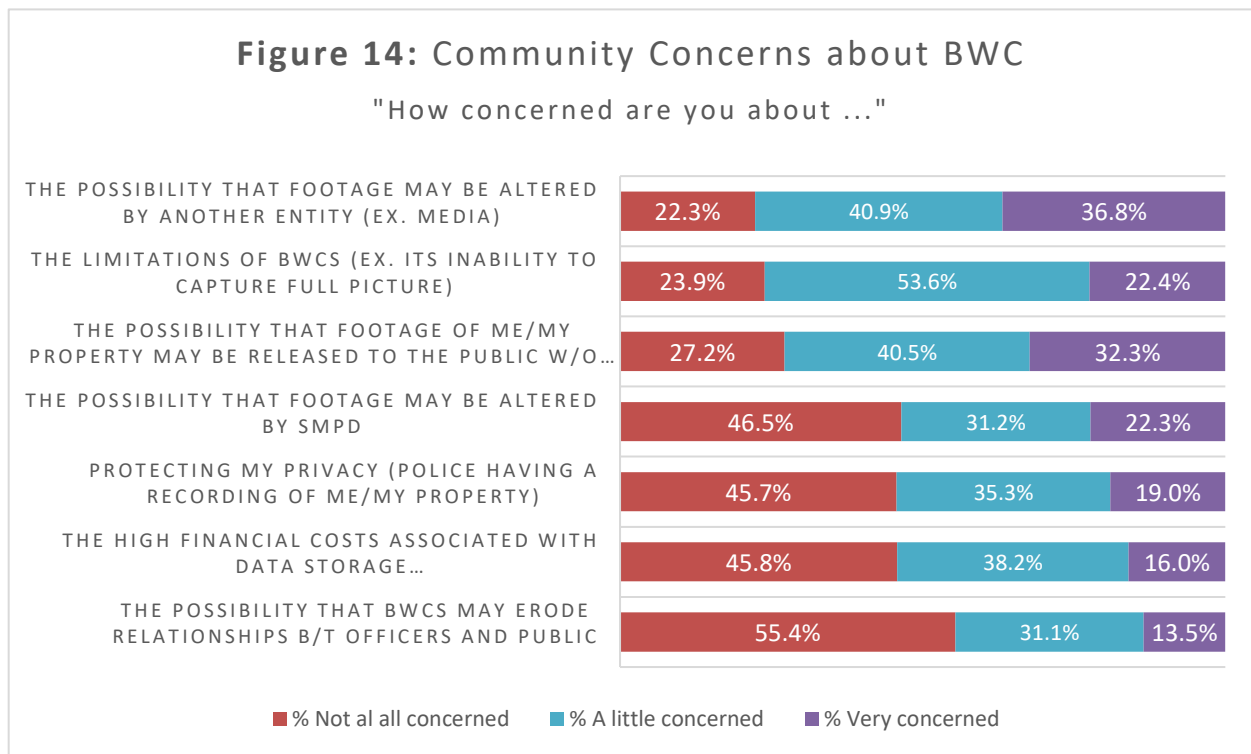
While levels of agreement varied, most respondents felt that officers should not be able to turn off the camera at anyone's request. Only 10.0% of respondents would allow an officer to turn off a camera at a suspect's request; 30.9% would allow it for a witness, 40.2% for a victim, and 18.4% for any member of the public. More telling is the percentage of respondents which disagreed with the statements. More than three-quarters (76.7%) of respondents do not want officers to be able to turn off the camera at a suspect's request and two-thirds (68.2%) do not want them to turn it off for just any member of the public. There is less consensus when it comes to stopping a recording at the request of a witness or victim.

Concerns

As Figure 14 below illustrates, community members are most concerned about the possibility of an entity other than SMPD (such as the media) altering BWC footage (77.7% are a little or very concerned about this). Approximately three-quarters are also concerned about the limitations of the technology (76.1%) and the possibility that footage of themselves or their property could be released to the public without their permission (72.8%). Slightly more than half of respondents have some concerns that about the high financial costs associated with data storage and retention (54.2%), protecting their privacy (54.3%), and/or that the BWC footage could be altered by SMPD (55.5%). Some are concerned that BWCs could erode the relationship between officers and the public (13.5% are very concerned and 31.1% have a little concern).

Some community members expressed concerns over other issues as well. For example, there is some concern that officers would not be able to use their discretion to issue a "warning" (instead of a ticket) if wearing a BWC or that the BWC would turn officers into "robots." Many expressed concerns that officers may not turn the camera on, may intentionally turn it off, wear it in a way that obstructs the images it captures, find a way to disable the camera, or delete/"lose" unflattering video. Several expressed concerns about privacy issues – such as who decides what footage is public and when it is released, encryption to protect video and privacy,

as well as fear over the ability to combine BWC technology with facial recognition software. A couple worried that suspects may “act up” for the camera. Also, there was concern that if a video of a high profile incident was not released because it was unflattering to SMPD that would constitute a waste of taxpayer dollars for the technology. Some want to ensure that the community gets to have input into crafting body worn camera policies and are consulted about policy, personnel, and process decisions that could affect the usefulness of this costly public investment. All respondent comments are located in Appendix C in their original form.

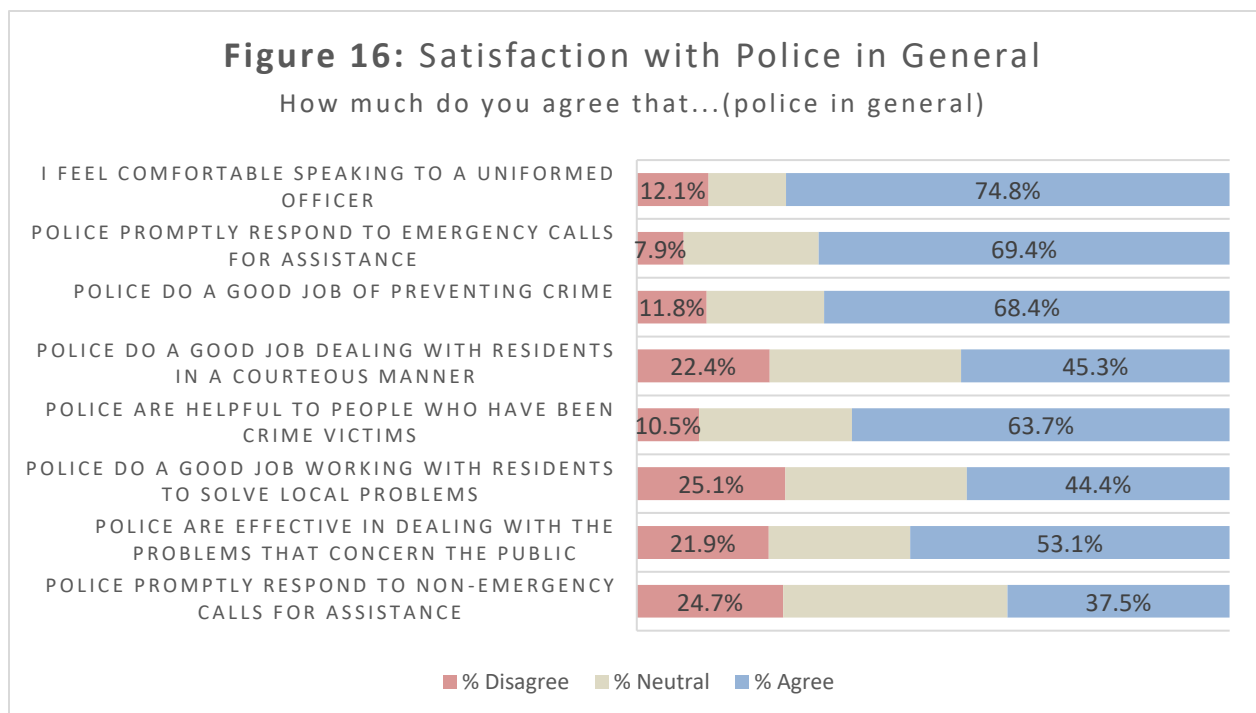
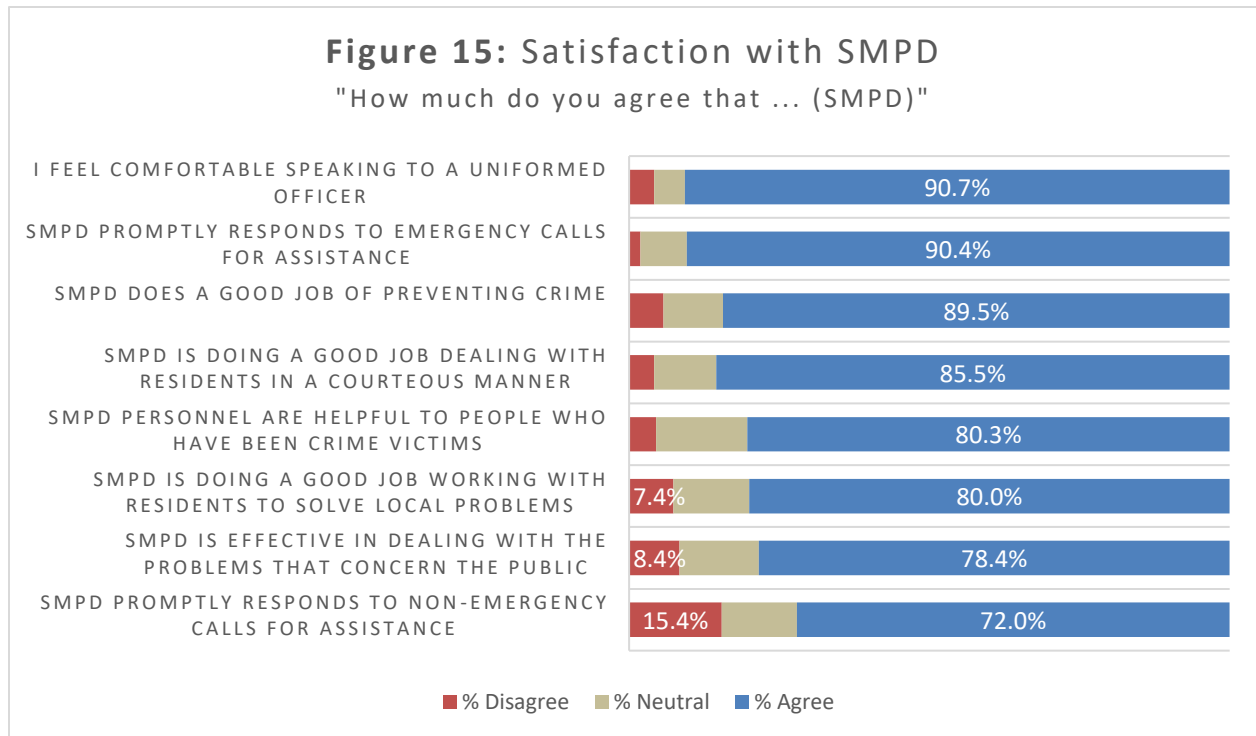


Santa Monica PD Report Card

As previously indicated, the pre-pilot community survey asked respondents many questions about their perceptions of and trust in SMPD as well as the pressing issues in the city. Overall, residents appear to be highly satisfied with SMPD (see Figure 15). Nine in ten survey respondents stated they are comfortable speaking with SMPD uniformed officers, SMPD does a good job preventing crime, and believe SMPD responds promptly to emergency calls for assistance. While SMPD received high marks all around, areas for potential improvement include: promptly responding to non-emergency calls for assistance (only 72% feel this is happening), effectively dealing with problems that concern the public (78.4% agreed this is happening), working with residents to solve community problems (80.0% favorable rating), and being more helpful to people who have been crime victims (80.3% favorable rating).

Respondents were also asked to rate U.S. police in general. On every measure, respondents rated SMPD higher (better) than U.S. police in general. Thus, respondents have a much more

favorable view of SMPD officers than they do of police officers and the policing profession in general. Figure 16 below illustrates respondents' views of police in general on the same issues. For example, 89.5% of respondents agreed that SMPD is doing a good job preventing crime, but only 68.4% agreed that police in general are doing a good job preventing crime. There is a full 40 percentage point difference in how respondents view officer courteousness – 85.5% agreed that SMPD officers are courteous but only 45.3% agreed that officers in general are courteous.



Conclusion

This report describes the findings of Santa Monica Police Department's (SMPD) Pilot Body-worn Camera Program which took place from September 12, 2016 through March 11, 2017. Overall, the study found that there is excellent community support and good SMPD personnel support for adoption of the technology. Most individuals who responded to surveys on the subject (community members, SMPD general and pilot personnel) believe that body-worn cameras will have a positive effect on police-community relations and public trust in the police and that BWCs will benefit police more than the community.

Pilot personnel reported using the BWCs for a variety of tasks not traditionally associated with BWCs which made their jobs easier and improved their work product for themselves as well as other criminal justice personnel downstream (for example, detectives and prosecutors). They recognized the benefits of the cameras for training and other purposes, including improving police-community interactions but also reported being more cautious in their decision making due to concerns over being judged in the future. While most pilot personnel felt reassured that the camera was recording an accurate accounting of their interactions with the public, there were concerns about the limitations of the technology as well as privacy concerns. Community members were similarly supportive and saw the benefits of the technology for police and public protection and trust.

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The Center for Public Policy at CSUF is a nonpartisan research institute dedicated to exploring public policy issues in Orange County and the surrounding area. The center conducts public opinion surveys and provides a setting for faculty and student research on applied policy relevant to the region. For questions regarding the Center for Public Policy, please contact:

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Appendix A - Community Respondent Comments: Reasons to Deploy BWC

From your perspective, what are some reasons that SMPD should deploy body cameras to field personnel?

Liability protection for the officers.

To limit false accusations by the public.

prevent officer use of excessive force on people of color

To have an objective record of events

Helps both citizens and police in many situations

Lead the nation as an example

To encourage good behavior and even reward cops who stay professional in tough situations

Having a recording documents interactions. A video can result in better behavior on the part of both police and people.

To protect the officers and to give an accurate accounting of events.

Provides additional video to be viewed in conjunction with other reporting and/or citizen provided cell phone video

To insure a record of interactions between the officer and the public.

To provide a different perspective of incidents, as well as back up to written reports of incidents.

So the public can't accuse an officer for something he/she didn't do, and in turn the same for an officer

Better understanding of what a police officer deals with on a daily basis.

It will maintain a higher level of accountability on officer's daily actions.

decline to state

To protect officers from false accusations

truth

Public trust

To show the flip side of all of the cell phone videos showing up on social media.

To institute a police state?

additional information on officer-community member behavior in field; could decrease inappropriate behavior and increase appropriate behavior of both

Cover themselves and encourage best conduct

verify police actions, improve officers attitude, stop officers from taking short cuts. Traffic Cops need them most to keep them ethical and stop falsifying citations
Give confidence to those who believe cameras are useful.
Transparency, begin to establish trust in those officers
protect both
Accountability and objectivity for both sides
Protect police from false accusations
Every public contact
It could be a short term "bandage" solution.
nothing overly dramatic happens here...put the money where it would do some good.
Protection for officers
Excessive force has gotten out of hand in this country. I'm not speaking specifically about SMPD, but certainly LAPD. Cameras are a no brainer to ensure that both the police and citizen are protected.
interactions with the police are intense enough that there should be no reliance on trust. Rather, I want to always be able to point to recorded footage as a source of truth, both to protect from dishonest police officers and citizens alike.
good behavior may increase -- less police ego, less "attitude"
More data is useful in creating trust between the public and the SMPD
Traffic stops I/investigations
For their safety
It will help to reassure people the Police are on our side and working to keep us safe, they have nothing to hide and want the public to see things from their perspective. Walk in their shoes, so to speak.
Accountability and for their own protection.
Equal playing field for both officers and the public at large.
In the event of use of force or in terms of protection when an officer is downed it would be smart to have his last moments recorded.
I think it's a needless expense in a community whose underlying progressive values have for the most part had a positive impact on policing in the community. It's a waste of money. The community is significantly gentrified, and I would bet a million dollars that most of the officers patrolling the neighborhood rarely feel under threat as officer in the City of Compton, or less affluent communities might.
People act differently when they know their actions may be observed by others
Keeping everybody accountable for their actions.

It is good for the police staff since others will record their prospective on cell phones.
To protect officers from False allegations
Cameras keep everyone honest.
Protect all parties in the event of a shooting or other serious incident
To protect both the public and officers from inaccurate witness testimony.
It provides a matter-of-fact account of what has happened
to keep everyone in check
Provides as close to an objective view of police/community encounters as can be established today.
Transparency
Accountability
A recording of interactions may help alleviate the he said, she said accounts that greatly differ,
The rise in violence between homeless and the police.
Dealing with unlawful behavior, protect police dept from frivolous lawsuits
To help resolve conflicting eye witness reports which are known to be problematic. I do think officers will be more judicious in the use of verbal abuse or excessive force when wearing them. I think that outrageous and false claims against officers will resolved in a way that perhaps will safe money from potential lawsuits against the officers/department.
Under rare and extreme circumstances perhaps
objective evidence available in case of conflict
For the safety of both citizens and police
They will encourage proper procedures by the officers and ALSO PROTECT OFFICERS FROM FALSE CLAIMS OF UNNECESSARY FORCE, etc.
increase level of trust between community and police
it enhances the transparency of an event
No reason what-so-ever
They can provide an objective (if sometimes incomplete) point of view of interactions between the police and public.
To help protect officers from being unjustly accused of misconduct.
more transparency is always better
To repudiate false "eyewitness" testimony from citizens who generally have a bad attitude about cops.

To better document all aspects of interaction
For their safety. To show when civilians are aggressive, intoxicated, etc.
it will set a standard for other police department companies to train and enforce officer conduct in as similar a manner to smpd as possible
If an officer had misconduct complaints
Provide proof of conduct regarding actions taken.
Helps protect officers from misconduct charges.
protect officers from accusations of excessive force and vice versa. Reduce "he says/she says" type of conflicts
To protect the police from false accusations. To protect the public from rogue police officers.
It would reduce the potential for false reports against the officers. Might also provide better evidence in a crime situation.
improve public relations; avoid frivolous claims
civilian complaints,
Eliminates the potential for groupthink and after-the-fact changes in scenario.
The cameras might be useful if activated when officers are dispatched to a potentially violent situation to possibly record the incident.
Deploying body cameras to field personnel will demonstrate to the public that a greater level of oversight is being considered for public safety and transparency
For better training and documentation as well as civil and legal protections for both parties.
Accountability
Eliminate the he said/she said of police interactions. Objective facts can be established.
Safety, an impartial record
Transparency, limit the use of excessive force, reestablish trust between community and police force.
Accountability for officers, ability to quickly settle disputes with citizens regarding officer behaviour
Provides an additional, objective account of an event or interaction
Reduce liability, false claims of abuse etc.
Accountability
That officers shall have a record of not enforcing and turning a blind eye to violations, like infractions when nothing else is going on. An occasional randomized review by someone else pointing out when lack of enforcement is seen

To have an actual record of interaction between police and resident /suspect to protect both
Both citizens and SM Police will behave better. Facts will be recorded.
protect both sides from inaccurate presentation of facts. 3 sides to every story - his, hers, the truth
Its a win win situation, its helps remove the walls of distrust that have been build up.
Public trust
The militarization of police in the US is extremely disturbing
Photo records digitally stored and scrutinizable by computer in zoom detail of perpetrators
Dishonest people filming officer-public interactions may edit/alter/misrepresent their video footage and officers need to be able to present a complete picture of what really happens
Prevent wrongful reports of police conduct.
To accurately report all interactions with the public.
maintain integrity
more thoughtful interactions with public
everyone sees everything from their own personal point of view. Cameras do not have "personal" points of view so it may be easier at getting more of the truth.
To get a more complete account of arrests.
If some selected films become available to the public they will illustrate what a difficult and dangerous job the Police have.
Camera footage will provide actual recording of events and that can only benefit everyone.
Because 25+ police persons have blamed me because I have been assaulted twice and hit 7 times.
Problems with the homeless and a general lack of respect for officers, may cause citizens to think before speaking out of turn
Protection for both the officer and the public.
Protects the public from an officer who might be overly aggressive; protects the officer from the public making false accusations
to record accurately interactions between police and public; to improve officer behavior
For use in certain neighbour hoods
To protect the officers from bogus complaints.
For use when an officer is needed but not available - witnessed by field personnel, film could be helpful evidence
Police need all help they can use in the pursuit of safety

crimes
provides one more source of information about an interaction between officer & community member that could be useful in the event of excessive force charge, bias, death etc
Transparency improves everything. It will allow more knowledge about officer interactions benefiting the officer's training and the public, as well as have justice-end use.
ensures greater accuracy of reports of citizen/police interactions
For the record and a more accurate account of often fast-evolving situations
Cameras are an objective measure of an interaction. They should be standard for all police, everywhere. If there have ever been any issues of dispute about a police/civilian interaction, that is enough to demonstrate the usefulness of body cameras - if they are in fact worn. Police have a great deal of power and should be held to a high standard of "fair" behavior.
Reduce risk of misbehavior and better evidence against criminals.
For as accurate a depiction as possible.
Less reliance on memory recall
protection of police and public
keeps everyone honest
to protect them from bogus complaints by disgruntled citizens
For reasons mentioned above
There would be a record of the interaction between the police officers and the person they stop.
To ensure respect and proper treatment to the public
To create an objective record of encounters with the public, help with subsequent training and improve performance. Improve public's assessment of police competence and professionalism (if deserved).
Enhance public & police officer safety
to protect police officers and the public
Recording events is better for everyone's protection. The public will record events, as is their right. So should the police, for everyone's benefit.
Safety for all
Honestly, I don't think body cameras are as necessary in SM as they are in other parts of the country because I feel like we don't have the same tensions and the same negative view of police officers in general here. Having said that, I am a white male, so my view of SMPD could be very different for that of other people's. I definitely think that if it is possible to have body cameras, it is better to have them than not. Any time you can prevent something coming down to one person's word against another's, you're making progress, regardless of how big or small the violation is.

So those in charge (chief, ect.) can see what really happen in the field.
It may create more accountability.
Transparency keeps everyone honest and improves confidence in government generally
Verifying police and citizen conduct
To eliminate any doubts about what happened during a situation
Protect police, city payouts for false claims against police, and to protect citizens for the occasional negative police interaction
Could help eliminate the he-said-she-said of all parties involved. Officers have A/V evidence that they behaved appropriately, and members of the public have evidence to support their claims.
When I was arrested the police lied and there was no security camera to back me up and my lawyer said I had to agree with them
It would create more trust between officers and those in the community.
Protect officers
To insure that police and civilians are saying and doing what they should.
Protect themselves
To assist and support Officers in the course of doing their job.
Good source of evidence.
1. He said - She said? 2. EXPO-increased visitor population
To give everyone confidence that a photographic record is being made.
Safety for policy officer and residence
Assuming that cameras are always on, officers will be more civil, and the public may be more contrite when they see their own behavior on film.
no need SMPD are honorable officer
To see if in fact BWCameras have the beneficial effects this survey is asking about.
Disputes over what exactly happened in an interaction should be easily avoided with a video record of it.
to make racial minorities feel safer
Build trust
to establish trust in the community as a show of faith and goodwill.
To protect against potential lawsuits

To protect SMPD personnel from claims made against them, to protect the officers
I feel that its a great idea and a wonderful deterrent.
They will protect officers from false accusations.
Body cameras will protect police officers as well as the public, as officers will have some evidence in case of being falsely accused of misconduct.
To protect the officers and give a third witness account.
Public trust and accountability.
It would help with an officer involved shooting.
A clearer picture of events..rather than smartphone videos shot by people who haven't seen the event unfold from the beginning.
To protect Police Officers from false testimony from multiple witnesses
In case the incident ends up being litigated, there will be proof of what actually happened in a more serious circumstance.
Safety issues/Training
To increase safety to the police officers as well to monitor more the crime
Unbiased info is always useful
There is some possibility that the filmed behavior of perps toward police will help convict those who assault police and others. If that happens, watch the SJW's decide they do not like cameras.
Our culture has become paranoid. For me, i believe that my privacy would not be impacted by SMPD body cams, and that my and the general public's safety would be enhanced by it.
so a more objective record of an encounter exists
Legal reference
Proof; however, may not capture whole story/picture/situation
To record events for the truth of an interaction which could serve to benefit citizens and police
Keep officers safe from dishonest people
Provide some degree of assurance of safety for both police and the community.
To prevent people from misconstruing or misrepresenting their interactions with police in a negative way.
To regain the trust of the public.
Accountability. Police violence

To help monitor behavior/misconduct of policemen, to help both public and police if they need evidentiary help, to show as much as possible what is occurring
Reduce violence towards innocent residents. Protect police officers from spurious allegations
Eliminates questions regarding incidents
Don't know enough to comment.
To protect both police and citizens
There have been credible reports of officers using excessive force and targeting cyclists, minorities and homeless in SM.
It will have a positive impact
We live in a litigious society the BWC could save the City significant amounts of money in court.
Promote civil conduct between officers and the public, knowing their interactions may be recorded they shouldn't
to have an objective way of seeing, at least partially, what happened
To protect SMPD from false accusations
Protection of citizens as well as officers
I think it protects the officers from the public altering versions of what happened. SMPD is extremely professional and I have never had a negative interaction with an officer. It has always been positive.
Public safety
A benefit to community and public will be the result.
No reason.
None, except for the 1 in 10000 "bad" apples
Public expectation in this day and age.
Prevent false reporting
Reduce liability
I do not see the benefit of SM police officers wearing body cameras.
To prove to the public and the legal system that they are in control of their behavior
Calms down interactions between police and public
I think if you're law-abiding there's no need, but for the people who want to disobey an officer's request and do something dumb, they're going to be somewhat helpful.

1.To gather more data, especially in crowded situations. 2. Counter-terrorism. 3. To prevent racial incidents, like Fay Wells.

We have instantaneous coverage especially in social media depicting the police officers in a negative manner, and this may alleviate potential media disasters. People only choose to see what the media presents as opposed to analyzing the issue from a different perspective.

To protect all parties from unreasonable allegations. This is as much for SMPD's protection as for community protection.

To enhance public trust and to accurately record interactions. Memories and eyewitness statements are notoriously unreliable but body cameras are very helpful in providing an objective overview of events.

Appendix B - Community Respondent Comments: Reasons to Not Deploy BWC

From your perspective, what are some reasons that SMPD should NOT deploy body cameras to field personnel?

Financial and social justice pressure

Invasion of privacy for private citizens.

Loss of privacy if footage or data was leaked to non-critical viewers.

none

None

None

None

If the police controls their own footage. The cameras need to be on and monitored by an independent group

None

A good working relationship with the public may make the return on investment insignificant - although, one bad incident could change this overnight

None.

People think cameras will solve public/police relations- they will not.

I cant think of a reason why they wouldn't, other than the burden of cost.

I am totally for it to protect the officers.

Invasion of privacy for the officer and community. Potential risk of a officer being hesitant to interact with people.

It could create a greater distrust with the potential of film tampering. The public is at risk as well as all behavior will be monitored and this will likely shed light on unsuspecting individual behaviors that may lead to more law suits.

decline to state

None

Inability to ensure tamper-proof video

I don't think there are any good reasons not to use body cameras.

To institute a police state?

possibility of tampering, on/off use to cherry-pick segments;

None
privacy
I have no reason they should deploy body cameras
No reason
None
None
None
I don't think SM has a trust problem with the police. Residence really trust SMPD.
Body cameras are a "technical fix" (short term) solution to police/community relations. We should be using "adaptive solution" that will get to the root of why there is such animosity between the police and the african-american community. We need to start by acknowledging that there is a 400 year history of oppression of the black community that is mostly carried out by law enforcement. Body cameras send a big "WE DON'T TRUST YOU" message to police officers--surely that message can't be helpful in the long term. Serious, long term training for both law enforcement and the public on discrimination, oppression, and bias--especially implicit bias will help. We just have to keep in mind that a problem that took 400 years to create, won't be solved in a few years.
it only shows a partial view, not the whole picture. yet another thing to go wrong at a trail. more money down the drain. our problems here are basically with homeless and drunks.....
None
Cost is definitely an issue due to the storage, especially since the data would have to be stored for awhile. Seems like we can throw Amazon some tax breaks in exchange for premium pricing though. Besides, the US government is already storing exabytes of data on all of its citizens... what's another few petabytes?
I sympathize with the stress it would create for police to be constantly monitored while on duty. That is stressful and it denies police officers things like private camaraderie
cost?
I have no reasons for this
Routine questioning
Fails to capture scope of scene
They might not use them
None, really. Perhaps cost and media manipulation of footage, but I think those are worth the "cost" to reinstate public trust.
None.

None - I think they should.
A lot of data processing, centralized systems will require constant monitoring and a lot of video storage. Memory stick recordings from go pros and such will need to viewed and wiped and if needed stored daily, needing a huge dept for each PD.
It's a waste. Officer interactions with the various socio-economic tiers in the community, when crimes are not being committed, would have far greater impact. Officers make mistakes out of fear; fear of the "other" that they don't know, because they have never interacted with this "other" in a meaningful way.
Not one reason!
none
Cost
None
It may create some self-consciousness in the intereaction, but it may also give both participants more confidence in the outcome of the interaction.
None
none at this time
No reason not to
Another invasion of citizens privacy
Can't think of any, unless you decide to pass the cost on to us.
Invasion of privacy of victim of a crime.
I still have concerns about privacy and need more information on which videos will be archived and which won't, when the videos are released to the public will faces be able to be blurred if those on camera were not involved/only bystanders. These types of concerns could be addressed by policies.
Erosion of public trust, will lead to officers "standing down"
can't think of any other than privacy concerns
No sure
I don't know how cumbersome they are. I also don't want to prohibit well trained officers from following their instincts because everything will now be recorded.
none
if there is inadequate training

How concerned are you about the following issues regarding police body cameras? Due to the fact that excessive money is wasted on internal reviews, enquiries on officers involved in use of excessive force (shooting and killing people who are obviously unarmed in the video) I do not trust them.
Cost, process overhead (for officers), exploitation of footage (i.e. the television shows TMZ, COPS,
No down side
none come to mind
No reasons. This will benefit good cops and enable them to refute false claims against them.
Possibility for inaccurate representation
Victims privacy
No reasons
Sometimes camera may not adequately and fairly capture all the reasons for officers' conduct
Main concern is the source of funding for purchase, implementation, training and maintenance.
May create an impression in the mind of an officer that they cannot be trusted to do the right thing.
In cases where the officer is honestly doing their job it might add an element of hesitation that would negatively impact the situation.
cost
potential bureaucratic roadblocks in legal proceedings.
As I stated before, I'm less likely to approach a police officer and engage in friendly conversation or to ask a question. Body cams make police more like RoboCop instead of the woman/man trained to do a job. Communities need to feel comfortable, welcoming to their police officers, not like it's us vs them. I wonder if any police officers live in Santa Monica now that it's so expensive. Just imagine how much more comfortable the officers would feel (and vice versa) if they lived in the community they serve.
Unrealistic public expectation that cameras will eliminate violent incidents during arrests
Inadequate support structure to review and evaluate recordings that would cause personnel to hold back from enforcement.
There are privacy concerns in some scenarios.
No reasons
Financial Cost
To find evidence against citizens
No deployment without strong policies in place to ensure accountability

There needs to be a reasonable and responsible policy governing the use of BWCs, officers need to have some discretion as to when they use the device.
Releasing footage to public without citizen consent
That the storage or upload of the media isn't secure/encrypted.
None
NONE!
The SMPD has more cameras on them and around them than any other police force around due to this being the 21st century and a major tourist attraction.
they have so much equipment, don't want it to hinder ability to do job with yet another piece
If its keeping them from being men and woman of integrity, and doing the best job that they were sworn to do.
Cost
potential privacy issues for general public. Personally I'd be less likely to speak candidly "on record" on a video if I'm talking to an officer about crimes in my neighborhood.
No concern
costs from citizens
too much data to go through
None
No reason
The possibility of manipulation by outside entities with a subjective agenda; whether for or against the community or the police. This has been done quite successfully against Israel by anti Israel groups.
No reasons.
None
None
Cost of start up and data management
None
I don't know how much they will cost the taxpayers and where will the money come from. I would rather more bodies hired than equipment
Possibility of videos getting to the media and being made public without prior authorization from
Cannot think of any

cost \$\$
None
I'd like to trust they'll use them in a situation when police think they need them
Spend money on additional officers
helping citizens
cost
None, this is the future. It's a new cost, like say, "the internet" was 20 years ago.
if their use could degrade police reaction times in threatening situations
Cost
If there is inconsistent use. They shouldn't be used in all situations, like voluntary meeting with an officer, but anything that might lead to a dispute about the officers' appropriate behavior should have the benefit of cameras.
Cost and legal ramifications of retention and security.
Full picture story may not be accurate.
Victims may not want to be filmed
incomplete picture
raw footage may be leaked (or hacked) and may be embarrassing to victims and witnesses if released and played on the 6 o'clock news!
none
It is expensive but probably worth it, especially in communities of color.
Personal privacy.
Cameras should be deployed and carefully evaluated. We also must guard against mindless reliance on video without taking other information into account.
not sure
No reason to not deploy cameras.
None I trust the police
The only reason I can see to not have them is that no one wants to be monitored full-time while at work. As long as the cameras can be turned off during "down time" between calls, I don't see why they shouldn't be used. The only reason to not want them used while performing one's duty is if you don't want people to see you doing a bad job. That is not a valid reason to not want these. As long as the cameras can be activated when you key your radio, or something along those lines, so that they come on when necessary, I don't see how they could be a bad thing.

There is none.
There are zero valid reasons not to be using body cams in 2016, for both officer and citizen protection.
If they are doing things that are illegal or immoral and we don't want to be sued.
Invasion of privacy of the officer as well as citizen privacy issues
None
None.
Inhibits police officers from doing the job they are trained to do. Officers should not have to constantly worry about how their actions will come across on camera.
Things seen and heard in video do not always reflect what occurs.
No reason if they have nothing to hide
Expensive
Doesn't show the totality of an incident
None
Expense
N/A
Cost to tax payers.
Exhorbitant cost estimates
Zero
Cost, civilian privacy, maintenance, policies
Not going to solve what's at the root of the may problem, which is lack of communication and education on both sides
Digital video never goes away, no matter what we're promised. I'm not sure we want a "permanent record" that might get "leaked" 20 years later, even if its just a traffic stop. Future data mining will create three-dimensional-geographic-timelines combined with facial, gait, license plate, and other personal keys. I don't like being on camera at all; a peace officer may not give me a choice.
SMPD are honorable officer
No reason not to try them.
expense
None
Cost

No reason
The SMPD has always been respectful to citizens (homeless, drunk, or normal). I've seen the SMPD deal with "unsavory" citizens and have always been impressed with their kindness and respect.
None
I can't think of any reasons.
They are costly.
I have no reasons why they shouldn't
Care should be taken to protect privacy.
The weight. It's hot here. We don't have a police problem. The officers carry enough stuff already.
Can't see any reason why not, if all rights are preserved
I have none
Who will shoulder the cost? That money can be better used for other things, like PAL or more SROs for Samohi.
Depends on job level
Data privacy reasons
I do not wish to be recorded. Cameras do not necessarily record events in the same manner that they are experienced. To me, body cameras imply I miss trust of police officers. In Santa Monica I fully trust our police force, they are very respectful, extremely capable, and I don't think we need to have a device in between the officer and the people they serve.
direct cost, indirect cost in time - energy to implement/maintain, possible resentment on part of
The public knows Zip about police work. Cameras can not possibly capture the nuances of encounters between Police Officers and Perps.
Don't know
cost - benefit perhaps
Diminishes personality of individual officers
None
Expense would be my only hesitation. I see no downside otherwise.
It may not change police culture, can worsen victims bad behavior to put on a show
None

I think it will make some officers less likely to do what they need to do for fear that it will look bad on camera. Sometimes force is the right choice, but in todays environment, it gets on TV and cops get fired when they were just doing their jobs.
Don't know of any reasons.
None
If police are able to modify/change/turn off cameras and sound when they want, then it does not become an effective tool to help either police or public. It needs to give additional transparency to current culture of police mistrust
n/A
Don't know enough to comment.
Might be too costly
cost and potential for invasion of victim, suspect or witness privacy by release to media or police
Body cams should be able to be worn by all law enforcement
I can't think of one legitimate reason why the City should not move forward with BWC.
The camera may not capture the entire interaction or view of the situation, and may tell a different account than what the officer or public recall or report in written statements
I don't think they need it. I think it's only going to lead to bad things, however since everyone has a camera on their phone anyway it doesn't matter... just a waste of money and resources to deal with... and another thing to distract COPS from doing their main job.
information might be misused
to establish trust
Strongly prefer high-trust neighborhoods with local control AND FUNDING of the police to low-trust militarized FEDERALLY CONTROLLED policing
SMPD are honorable officers I trust them to keep me safe
None
None
None
Cost for equipment and maintenance of records.
Too costly, there isn't a high level of mistrust in the community. This is not necessary in Santa Monica.
Privacy, inability to make snap judgement needed in certain circumstances putting officer at rick.
None

Will make officers act like robots and make them think we dont trust them
Money should be used to address real issues in the city like; hiring more safety personnel to address theft, homelessness, and creating programs to bring the community and first responders in unity.
Expense
There's no reason not to if it will benefit the officers.
Commercial use, like reality TV, Vines or YouTube videos.
I really don't think it's necessary but if it assists in keeping the officers safe , then by all means you should deploy body cameras.
There probably should be privacy guidelines related to entry to private property and/or filming when a person is not fully dressed or fully self-aware.
n/a
Cost effectiveness.

Appendix C - Community Respondent Comments: Concerns about BWC

How concerned are you about the following issues regarding police body cameras? Other, please specify

Faith in officer's testimonies will be reduced as the public will only believe the camera image, which does not always capture what the officer sees or perceives.

Footage Should be made available for public consumption

Based on the current distrust due to specific shootings in the US, it is the right move for PD to bring in cameras to rebuild public trust. Over time the counter balance of public also being filmed will bring new light to the reality of encounters.

another system to fail

intermittent on/off that may bias full picture

Officer having discession of the on off switch

has the world really come to this???

Police will refuse to release inculpatory videos

Context lost due to editing with the intent of wrongly creating a case

All of the above

I've observed (infrequently) Harbor Patrol officers overstep their role. No problem with SMPD sworn officers.

Officer's inability to use discretion and give "warnings" for violations

Body cams are just another electronic device that create an atmosphere of distance and distrust between the police and the general, law abiding public. Build trust and alliances by returning to community foot patrols or outreach in a community. We ask so much of our police officers. They should be allowed to protect and defend in a safe environment. And they should feel SAFE interacting with a public that is on their side. If a police officer is fearful when he/she already carries a lethal weapon, how much safer will that officer feel with a body cam? I've spoken to many SMPD officers and watched their interaction with homeless or intoxicated people and have been impressed with their calm, polite, engaged attitude. Wearing a body cam won't improve those qualities but I'm not a police officer so if a body cam helps make an officer feel more relaxed and part of the Santa Monica community then they should have the option to wear it (or not). If an officer has numerous complaints from the community, wearing a body cam might be a learning opportunity.

Right to View My Reordings

People counting only on what the body camera shows

Policy regarding officers viewing video promise to being interviewed for use of force or misconduct investigations
Recordings being strongly encrypted
Photo capture of perps
Reliability of cameras and credibility that "it was not working properly"
The whole truth will be better served with body cameras.
Every officer in country sh have to wear one that is RECORDING.
Cameras will be turned off at the wrong times
Homeless
It will keep the cops from lying
Who decides what is public, when it is released? How long before SMPD databases are hacked?
Ability to obtain footage after the incident occurs - it is public record.
I do not think police officers should wear body cameras! I do not want to be recorded! Cameras do not convey the actual events!
Officers may wear body cameras but turn them off prior to specific incidents
Police will only turn them off or find a way to disable them.
Will make police act like robots
Under what circumstances will the recordings be reviewed? Internal, commission or third party?
Possibility of the apprehended person acting up more and over exaggerate the situation.