

Citizens Alliance for Public Safety

IMPD Body Worn Cameras

Community FAQ

What is a Body Camera

- IMPD will use BodyWorn by Utility cameras.
- It is a small device built from a cellphone that records both video and audio.
- The device is worn under the officers uniform, which adds security and prevents the camera from falling off.

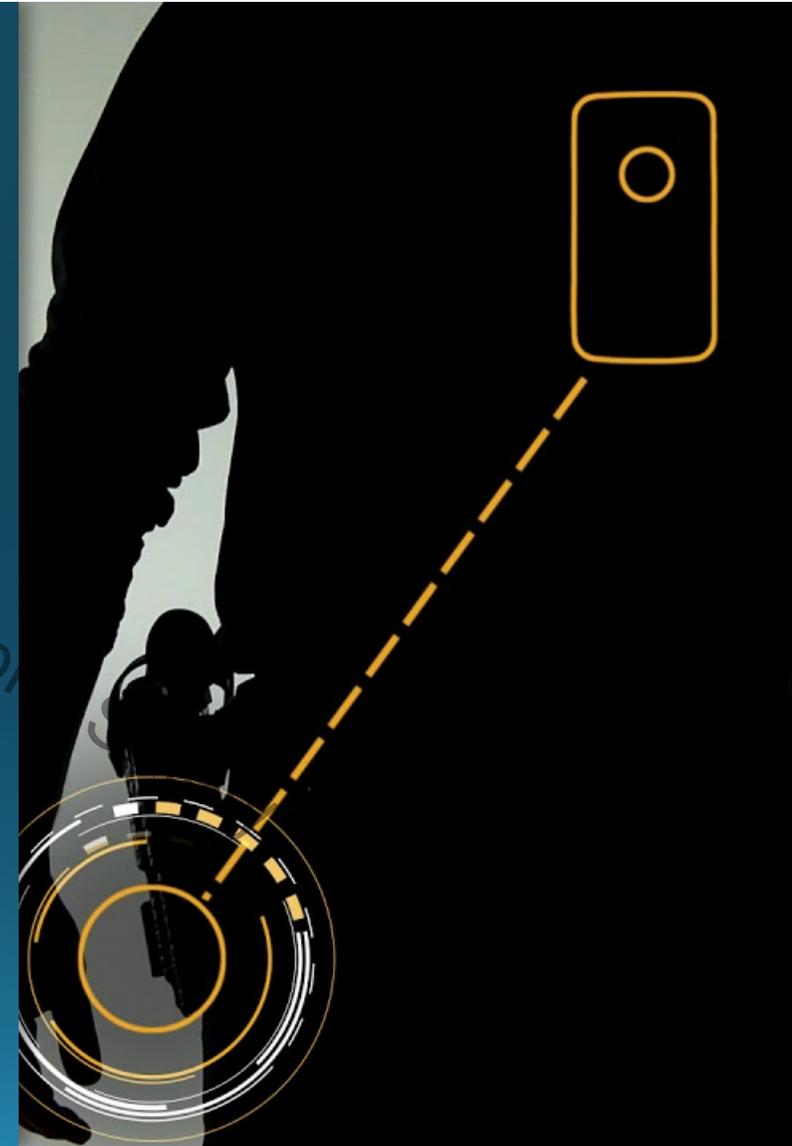


How do they work?

The cameras can be turned on by the officer, or by one of many automatic triggers. The camera will turn on anytime the officer:

- is within 500 feet of a dispatched call for service,
- begins to run,
- turns on their police vehicles overhead lights,
- The officer falls prone for more than 10 seconds, or
- The officer draws their handgun.

Officers will turn the camera off once the call for service is complete.



What if an officer forgets to turn their camera on?

- The camera system IMPD chose is designed to take most of the burden off of the officer. The activation triggers mentioned above will start the camera automatically for most civilian interactions.
- The cameras is always running and has a built in 30 second buffer. Which means every time the camera is turned on, the 30 seconds of video (but not audio) before the camera is turned on will also be saved.
- This means the if an officer is involved in a crash, or a use of force escalates very quickly and the officer does not have time to turn their camera on, these events can still be captured.

When will the cameras be on?

- Officers will be responsible for turning their cameras on for every citizen interaction. There are a few specific exceptions to this. (Inside medical facilities and schools, or while interviewing child or sexual assault victims, etc.)

Can I ask for the camera to be shut off?

- If you are in a public place or a place with no reasonable expectation of privacy the officers will not turn off their camera.
- If you are at your residence, and the interaction is not contentious, and the officers does not have another legal reason to be inside of your home (such as a warrant) then the officer will turn the video off when requested, but may not turn off the audio.

How will I know if I am being recorded?

- The camera has a very low profile since it is worn beneath the officer's uniform shirt.
- To inform citizen, officers will advise citizens they come in contact with that they are being recorded. (within reason)
- Citizen should assume any interaction they have with officers is being recorded.



Are the recording available to the public?

- Yes, public information requests can be made at <http://www.indy.gov/activity/request-a-public-record> or at IMPD Citizen Services Office. The following are required by Indiana State law to request a recording:
 - the date of the Incident, and
 - the approximate time of the incident, and
 - the location of the incident, and
 - the name of one person involved who is not a law enforcement officer.

How is my privacy protected in these recordings?

- Based on Indiana State Law some requests may be withheld from public release if the recording falls into one of the following categories:
 - It would create a significant risk of substantial harm
 - It would interfere with the ability of a person to receive a fair trial
 - It would affect an ongoing investigation
 - It would not serve the public interest



Any recording that is not withheld must be redacted. The recording will be obscured so personnel information, acts of extreme violence, nudity, etc. will not be visible. As well as the faces of victims/witnesses (if releasing their information may put them at risk) and any juvenile.

Can Officers redact recordings? Can they tamper with recordings in any other way?

- The redactions will only be done by the Body Worn Camera System Administrator (an IMPD supervisor) or a Body Worn Camera Specialist (civilian employees hired by IMPD). Officers will not be able to redact their own recordings.
- Redacting never harms the original recording. A copy of the original is made in the redaction program. Only the copy of the original recording can be altered.
- The redaction program has a log of the date and time of when the recording was made, when it was uploaded, and any time it is viewed, shared, or copied for redaction.

Proper [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Redaction
[REDACTED] Matters.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY			
For the Incident Created on 8/16/2019, 5:50:40 PM by Tyler Swoveland Session Id: 5f00e127-9373-40ca-a54f-8e047754df9b IncidentId: 5			
Event Time	User	IP Address	Action
2019-08-16 17:50:40	Tyler Swoveland		Evidence Collection Started
2019-08-16 18:33:03	Tyler Swoveland		Media Ready
2019-08-16 19:25:55	Tyler Swoveland	199.250.3.82	Info View
2019-08-16 19:26:00	Tyler Swoveland	199.250.3.82	Incident was viewed by user
2019-12-13 04:29:28	Scott Kulig	199.250.3.82	Info View
2019-12-14 02:30:09	Scott Kulig	199.250.3.82	Info View
2019-12-14 02:31:24	Scott Kulig	199.250.3.82	Info View
2019-12-14 02:31:36	Scott Kulig	199.250.3.82	On Demand Request
2019-12-14 02:32:06	Scott Kulig	199.250.3.82	Incident was viewed by user

What kind of review is in place to make sure the cameras are working appropriately?

- Officers are responsible to check their equipment at the beginning of their shift, to make sure the camera is working appropriately.
- Supervisors are responsible to check the battery life on their officers cameras at the start of each shift to ensure they are fully charged and that officers are labeling their recordings correctly.
- The Body Worn Camera System Administrator is required to perform weekly random audits of the recordings to ensure procedures are correctly followed and that the devices are working as intended.
- The System Administrator will take corrective or disciplinary action as required.

How long are the recording kept?

The State of Indiana mandates all recordings be kept for a minimum of 190 days.

Recordings of arrests (both misdemeanor and felony) will be kept until all potential legal proceedings and appeals have been exhausted.

Records for use of force, homicides, and recordings with training value for IMPD officers will be kept longer.

What are the camera's limitations?

- The camera is designed to closely replicate the human eye, but it is not perfect. The cameras can struggle in low light, or when transitioning from high to low light.
- The cameras are mounted on an officer's chest, which is a reasonable replication of an officer's sight line, but it does not see everything an officer sees. (e.g. an officer moves their head, but not their torso)
- Since the camera is on the officers chest, if they are holding on object, wearing a seatbelt, or very close to someone, the camera may be obstructed.



Will the public have access to the Body Camera Policy?

- IMPD will make the policy available on indy.gov (exact link would be helpful here)
- IMPD is actively interested in collecting community views and feedback on the policy. (how / where they can do that should go here)
- IMPD plans to reevaluate their current policy based on the feedback from the community, interested organizations, and the officers using the cameras.