

Optimizing Body-Worn Cameras to Enhance Common Police Practices and Field Investigations

Thomas Woodmansee, Principal Advisor at CNA, BWC subject matter expert, and former police officer

John Markovic, Senior Policy Advisor, Bureau of Justice Assistance

Introduction

The implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) continues to expand in police agencies across the country. Although the initial push for BWCs stemmed from demands for more police transparency and accountability from a significant segment of society, other benefits are now apparent. As the technology becomes more prevalent and sophisticated, we see other cohorts of users adopting BWCs, including federal law enforcement and state correctional agencies.

As more police agencies have adopted BWCs on their own initiative, and at least seven states¹ have recently moved to mandate their use, BWCs are becoming a permanent fixture for the majority of police agencies. As BWCs continue to garner widespread support across varied segments of the public and of law enforcement, the benefits of this technology are becoming firmly established and agencies are demonstrating novel ways to use BWCs to improve policing.

When we look at the potential benefits and outcomes that BWC can provide, it becomes clear that their employment involves far more than just deploying a “new technology.”² As we have learned, when properly implemented, BWCs can have widespread positive impacts—they have been shown to improve outcomes and enhance performance across a number of areas, including the following:

- Improving community trust³
- Enhancing messaging to the public about the positive and humane work that officers often perform⁴
- Improving evidentiary outcomes in critical incident assessment⁵
- Enhancing evidentiary value for prosecutor decision-making, charging, and case management⁶
- Providing agencies with live-action training material (e.g., to showcase exemplary de-escalation practices, or to demonstrate ineffective practices)⁷

¹ A. Wagner (2021, Apr. 30). Legislatures Require Police Body Camera Use Statewide. *National Conference of State Legislatures*. Retrieved Nov. 5, 2021, from <https://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/legislatures-require-police-body-camera-use-statewide-magazine2021.aspx>

² A. Niktin (2018, May 8). Police Body Cameras a ‘Guardian Angel’: Evanston Officer. *chicagotribune.com*. Retrieved Nov. 5, 2021, from <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/evanston/ct-evr-police-body-cameras-tl-0510-story.html>

³ W.H. Sousa, T.D. Miethe, & M. Sakiyama (2018). Inconsistencies in Public Opinion of Body-Worn Cameras on Police: Transparency, Trust, and Improved Police–Citizen Relationships. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 12(1), 100-108.

⁴ J. Taylor (2021, October 8). Body Camera Study Shows Newtown Police Doing ‘Fantastic Job.’ *Newtown Bee*. Retrieved Nov. 25, 2021, from <https://www.newtownbee.com/10082021/body-camera-study-shows-newtown-police-doing-fantastic-job/>

⁵ B. Blaskovits & C. Bennell (2020). Exploring the Potential Impact of Body Worn Cameras on Memory in Officer-Involved Critical Incidents: a Literature Review. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 35(3), 251-262.

⁶ L. Merola, C. Lum, C.S. Koper, & A. Scherer (2016). Body Worn Cameras and the Courts: A National Survey of State Prosecutors. *Fairfax, VA: George Mason University*.

⁷ J. Gaub, M.D. White, & Malm, A. (2020). An Examination of the Type, Scope, and Duration of Body-Worn Camera Training. *Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety, College of Public Programs, & United States of America*.

- Reducing use of force⁸ and improving internal use-of-force investigation processes⁹
- Reducing citizen complaints and aiding in their resolution¹⁰

The context in which agencies implement BWCs is important, and police understand that BWCs are quickly becoming another component of the required “toolbelt” that they take into the field every day. Command staff now realize that BWCs are part of the fabric of their policing operations, i.e., BWCs are affected by and are affecting many other dimensions of policing. BWCs have, for instance, added to police workload by generating public and media requests for footage that must be painstakingly reviewed and redacted before release. On the positive side, departments have realized some areas where BWCs serve to streamline existing practices, such as the investigation and resolution of citizen complaints.¹¹ At the same time agencies also recognize some previously unidentified and unintended benefits of this technology. BWCs provide police with opportunities to enhance their patrol responses and investigations. In this article, we discuss these two applications and other unique benefits of BWCs.

Patrol Examples

Documenting Responses to Calls. A common misconception by many (including the general public, media, and juries) is that BWCs capture *everything* that officers experience on their calls. This is not true. Police understand that BWCs capture a singular, narrow-sighted perspective because of the limitations of the camera, the lens aperture, the mounting positions, and the quality of video and audio captured. Police scholar Geoffrey Alpert likens BWCs to watching a baseball game through a straw,¹² and Allan Kolak of the Cape Coral (Florida) Police Department wrote, “A BWC is just an imperfect imitation of the human eye, with emphasis on imperfect.”¹³

To offset these limitations, some patrol officers use BWCs in what could be described as a “narrated documentary” that captures elements not easily identifiable on camera and those that occur out of view of the camera. These officers will narrate their environment, observations, perspectives, and rationales for actions through BWCs’ auditory function. They do this to provide a more comprehensive understanding about what they actually experience and to describe deliberately why they take specific actions.

An important caveat here is that officers should be certain that they perform such narration only in a manner that does not distract from their situational awareness or compromise tactical safety. If conducted properly, narration may even improve situational awareness in some routine encounters, e.g., wellness checks or providing assistance to a motorist with a disabled vehicle. These are perhaps the types of events that officers often take for granted, but for which narration could provide important context.

⁸ B. Ariel, W.A. Farrar, & A. Sutherland (2015). The Effect of Police Body-Worn Cameras on Use of Force and Citizens’ Complaints Against the Police: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 31(3), 509-535.

⁹ W.V. Pelfrey Jr., & S. Keener (2018). Body-Worn Cameras and Officer Perceptions: A Mixed-Method Pretest Posttest of Patrol Officers and Supervisors. *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 41(5), 535-552.

¹⁰ C. Lum, M. Stoltz, C.S. Koper, & J.A. Scherer (2019). Research on Body-Worn Cameras: What We Know, What We Need To Know. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 18(1), 93-118.

¹¹ Braga, Anthony A., William H. Sousa, James R. Coldren Jr, and Denise Rodriguez. “The Effects of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Activity and Police-Citizen Encounters: A Randomized Controlled Trial.” *J. Crim. L. & Criminology* 108 (2018): 511.

¹² G.P. Alpert, & K. McLean (2018). Where Is the Goal Line: A Critical Look at Police Body-Worn Camera Programs. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 17, 679.

¹³ A. Kolak (n.d.) Using Body-Worn Cameras During Impaired Driving Investigations. *Policechiefmagazine.org*. Retrieved Nov. 5, 2021, from <https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/using-body-worn-cameras-during-impaired-driving-investigations/>.

Not unlike a documentary film-maker, officers leverage their narrative voice to complement what is captured spontaneously on video and audio to document the event more fully and carefully. Breaking it down, these innovative officers chronicle the following:

- What they see
- What they hear
- What they sense
- What they have been told about the call from dispatch
- Recounting their past experiences and knowledge relating to the call or the area, i.e., previous encounters with people and places. An officer might narrate to their BWC, for instance, the following:
 - *"We were at this residence last week and the suspect threatened to shoot us if we came back."*
 - *"I am approaching this vehicle with caution and backup because the driver made an illegal turn and is driving a car that matches the description as a hijacked vehicle according to a crime bulletin that was distributed at roll call this morning."*
 - *"I'm detecting a strong odor of intoxicants from the operator of the vehicle."*
 - *"My partner and I are conducting extra business checks and talking to shop owners and managers this morning because this area has experienced a spike in commercial burglaries."*

Such chronicling can contribute to an officer's decision-making during a response to a call. Clear and purposeful audio provided by an officer can complement what is recorded and allow for the introduction of contextual information that video does not capture. The more an officer can describe what they are experiencing, the less likely that BWC video footage will be relied upon as the primary source for capturing the many nuances that come with the response to the dispatch call.

These deliberate efforts to narrate the scenario can prove to be even more advantageous when officers are responding to high-risk calls. In addition, they can later review their BWC footage, in a manner consistent with department policy, and reference this detailed audio narration to assist them with writing their reports. These narrations can allow officers to better articulate and document what they were experiencing at the time, as high stress can affect perspective, reactions, and recall. Narration may help the officer focus and self-modulate during these stressful encounters. Again, these narrations should not be conducted if they would detract from tactical safety.

Although some officers have taken the initiative to narrate actions and experiences, a number of agencies expressly encourage these narrative enhancements in their BWC policies:

- The Burlington (Vermont) Police Department policy reads, "In general, Officers are encouraged, but not mandated, to narrate what they perceive or are intending to act upon. This action can assist in clarifying or explaining actions that are going to occur."¹⁴
- Similarly, the Hopewell (New Jersey) Township Police Department's BWC policy states, "When the BWC is activated, officers are encouraged to provide narration where practical and appropriate in an effort to augment the value of the recording and to provide clarity for the viewer."¹⁵ The policy also requires officers to narrate reasons for deactivation of BWCs.

Evidence—Collection and Integrity. BWC footage often provides irrefutable documentation about the locations of evidence that officers find and identify upon arrival at a scene. Additional narration can articulate information about the condition of evidence and describe the measures officers take to preserve and not contaminate the evidence. These narrations can support and augment what officers capture in their standard reports.^{16,17}

Location, condition, and police recovery of evidence are some factors that defense attorneys will often raise either to attempt to exclude the evidence or to try to demonstrate that the officers were sloppy and contaminated the evidence. The BWC footage augmented with narration can save countless hours of police and prosecutors having to validate and prove that the evidence was collected properly, and can potentially affect plea agreements, jurors' decisions, and convictions. Narrated BWC footage may have monetary and operation impacts¹⁸ that accompany these aforementioned impacts. Better evidence from these videos can help determine whether overtime or other investigative resources are warranted. These augmented videos also can help make determinations on whether to even prosecute a case.¹⁹

¹⁴ City of Burlington, VT. (2017) Burlington Police Department Directive DD14.1 Body Worn Camera Systems. <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/Police/files/DD14.1%20-%20Body%20Worn%20Camera%20Systems.pdf>

¹⁵ Hopewell Township, NJ. (2017) Body Worn Camera (BWC) <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/DocumentCenter/View/4888/Body-Worn-Camera-BWC>

¹⁶ Police1 Magazine. (2018, Aug. 22). Should Police Officers Narrate Traffic Stops for Better Evidence? *Police1*. Retrieved Nov. 5, 2021 from <https://www.officer.com/on-the-street/body-cameras/blog/21019466/should-police-officers-narrate-traffic-stops-for-better-evidence>

¹⁷ Cherry Hill Township, NH. (2021) General Order No. 16-03 Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) <https://www.chnj.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4746/GO16-03?bidId=>

¹⁸ J.E. Gaub, D.E. Choate, N. Todak, C.M. Katz, & M.D. White (2016). Officer Perceptions of Body-Worn Cameras Before and After Deployment: A Study of Three Departments. *Police Quarterly*, 19(3), 275-302.

¹⁹ D. Mosler (n.d.). Policy Considerations for Body-Worn Cameras in Prosecutor Offices). *Body-Worn Camera Training & Technical Assistance*. Retrieved November 5, 2021, from

Police are trained to recognize and treat some evidence as easily perishable, such as DNA, fingerprints, vehicle tracks, and footprints. Crime scenes can often be subjected to contamination and deterioration without proper securement. For example, officers may locate a footprint or tire track in snow or mud, and weather conditions may have an immediate impact on this evidence. BWCs provide officers the ability to capture what the impressions were upon discovery, and officers can even use a measurement reference to highlight the dimensions of the evidence when their BWCs record it. Another example is when officers respond to the scene of a homicide or a location where a person has been seriously injured; although they are the first to arrive on scene, paramedics who offer medical aid to the victims will move them, transport them, and alter the crime scene.



Officers are routinely asked to testify in court about the environmental conditions of a scene such as, for example, lighting, people present, visibility, weather, and noise at the time of their field investigation. BWC footage can provide additional documentation of these factors beyond the officers' observations in their written reports.

Detective Investigations. Although it appears that a majority of agencies do not equip their detectives with BWCs, it is clear that many do and thus they realize some unanticipated benefits. We observe a general trend toward deployment of BWCs beyond patrol.²⁰ CNA found that some detectives will take BWCs with them during their investigations. Having BWCs available for field interviews (custodial or non-custodial),²¹ witness statements, and scene overviews can be very beneficial for investigative outcomes. Particularly in field interviews, BWCs are ideal for capturing suspect emotions, spontaneous utterances, and other cues of demeanor.

Detectives have also used BWCs creatively to assist with reconstructing events surrounding their investigations. For example, if a suspect describes their actions verbally at a scene, detectives can ask the suspect to demonstrate physically in the setting of the event what they were doing during the incident while they also verbally describe it. One example from a Midwest jurisdiction involved an investigation of reported significant child abuse in which the lead detective filmed the suspect reenacting consensually how force was used on the child at the scene of the alleged event. This reenactment video provided compelling evidence that the force was excessive and criminal, and contributed to a confession and conviction. The jurisdiction's district attorney's office commented that the recorded reenactment would have been very compelling to a jury had the case gone to trial.

The Rochester (New York) Police Department uses BWCs routinely when they obtain verbal consent from individuals for searches. They report using BWCs for these searches as evidence of legal consent, which can take away the ability of the suspects to later claim that they were coerced or did not freely provide their consent. The BWC footage also can document the officer's demeanor, professionalism, and precise dialogue.

Rochester detectives have also highlighted an example in which they used older BWC footage to assist them with investigating a cold-case homicide. One homicide detective has been particularly proficient in tracking down previously recorded BWC videos, as well as other types of videos, associated with current suspects or persons of interest. In one case, the detective, with assistance from data analysts and information technologists, reviewed older BWC footage from officers who responded to an unrelated traffic complaint by the identified suspect. By observing a distinctive tattoo in the earlier video, they were able to positively identify the masked homicide suspect in the current video. Compilation and linking of information across related videos enabled the lead detective to solve a case that would likely had gone unsolved had he relied only on the most current video available.

<https://bwctta.com/sites/default/files/Files/Resources/Policy%20Considerations%20for%20BodyWorn%20Cameras%20%28BWCs%29%20in%20Prosecutors%20Offices.pdf>

²⁰ The CNA Corporation. (2017, May 30). Beyond Patrol: Body-Worn Cameras in Specialized Units. *BWC TTA*. Retrieved Nov. 5, 2021, from <https://www.bwctta.com/tta/webinars/beyond-patrolbody-worn-cameras-specialized-units>

²¹ City of Fitchburg, WI. (2017) Fitchburg Police Department Video Recording Policy.

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20889/2033-Body-Worn-Camera-Policy>

The Tampa (Florida) Police Department also uses BWC footage to assist with cold-case homicides. Detectives will pull old footage from officers' BWCs that may have had connections to persons or places associated with a cold case homicide. Tampa reports that they have developed numerous investigative leads with this technique, and also solved cases by looking at both old and newer BWC footage that may have a nexus to unsolved cold cases.

The Wichita (Kansas) Police Department uses a "capture" function that integrates with the same digital evidence management system that works their BWCs. As part of that system, officers can use their cell phones to take still photographs for evidence. They hit a button on the phone camera application and the photo is sent directly to the same evidence storage platform that holds BWC footage. This digital evidence platform can also hold cell phone video that police obtain from citizens and other forms of digital audio and video evidence on a standard platform.

Prosecutors. Wichita police officers also use this standard digital platform for recording statements from victims and witnesses; this allows their prosecutor's office to view this information in a timely manner when reviewing field interviews, which helps the prosecutor make follow-up and case-filing decisions.

One prosecutor reports that he uses BWC footage to review and survey crime scenes, much like a walk-through, to assist with providing potential insights on how the crime may have played out. He notes that having officers use BWC footage and narrate a walk-through of the scene can be very helpful.²² Prosecutors will also review BWC footage to examine victim, witness, or defendant demeanor, which helps them assess credibility.

Tactics. Police are increasingly recognizing the benefits of using BWCs in their tactics to keep police and citizens safer. The Rochester Police Department uses BWC footage to aid officers in search warrants by using current footage to provide a more accurate description of the target location, and as a venue description with the warrant application. They also use previously captured footage associated with the suspects or locations to show prior activity and patterns, such as who has frequented the location, whether there were children or dogs present in the past for tactical considerations, and to identify if other suspects and associated vehicles were at the scene, potentially establishing additional leads and interviewees for investigations.

The Atlanta (Georgia) Police Department uses BWCs for high-risk tactical situations by placing a BWC that has livestream capabilities in an area *without* it being affixed to an officer. This tactical off-body use of a BWC reduces officer exposure to risk. The officers and department gain enhanced surveillance and monitor the situation in real time from a position of safety.

Victim Violence Advocacy Intervention. A unique and important use of BWCs is to help victims of traumatic incidents. An officer's BWC will often capture the raw volatility of a situation, such as when they respond to a family violence call. This information can not only impact criminal investigations but also help provide assistance to trauma victims.

The Wichita Police Department established a Community Support Specialists Team (CSS) consisting of two civilians who have experience working with at-risk children. The CSS specializes in early detection of children exposed to violence. They examine BWC footage from officers who responded to domestic or other family violence calls where children were present. BWC footage has been useful in evaluating whether the CSS team should follow up with intervention or assistance to the children. The specialists will respond in real time to the calls, and officers can refer their footage to the specialist. The BWC footage provides the ability to reach many more victims of trauma and offers insight into why the specialists would consider protective custody for a child by providing video documentation of the child's living conditions and situational factors.

Training. Using BWCs to train police has provided valuable opportunities to use actual footage from calls to document real-life examples and insights, and for designing scenario-based exercises for academy and in-service trainings. BWC video provides the opportunity for timely reviews and assessments of officer performance. These real-time videos can showcase exemplary actions (e.g., those of an effective de-escalation) and identify learning

²² Seraphin, B., & Sanders, J. (2020, July 13). Urbana Police Department Body-Worn Camera System Overview. *Urbana, Illinois*. Retrieved Nov. 5, 2021, from https://www.urbanaindinois.us/sites/default/files/attachments/UPD_Presentation_07-13-2020_0.pdf

opportunities and areas for improvement. Agencies typically use BWC footage to help with training needs related to areas such as tactics, perimeter deployment, use of force application review, and field responses.

An additional training consideration with BWC, applied by many, relates to the most common type of complaint that citizens make against officers—unprofessional communications—specifically how officers interact and talk with people. Officers who are the subject of complaints about their poor communications with a citizen (e.g., “rudeness”) sometimes do not fully appreciate how they come across during the interaction. Simply showing them the video can demonstrate clearly to these officers how their interaction was perceived by a citizen as unprofessional or inappropriate. This review can help identify communication training needs that may be better aligned with the agency’s goals and policies on officer conduct.

Civil Unrest. Numerous after-action reports on civil unrest and riots have been conducted around the country over the past several years. With the increased prevalence of BWCs, more footage has been available to assist with identifying helpful and effective practices that police can learn from when dealing with these events, as well as demonstrating and documenting the volatility of these events and dangers to officers. Although the volume of data often captured with BWCs can be overwhelming, given the number of officers and BWCs on the scene, agencies are tapping footage from these events to conduct after-action reviews. These video reviews can shed light on a wide variety of mass-gathering performance concerns including tactics, use-of-force incidents, effectiveness of resource allocation, adherence to policy and procedure, and effectiveness of communications. They have also been used to identify training needs and to indicate areas where policies may need to be updated.

The Atlanta Police Department leverages BWC footage to enhance its ability to deploy officers more effectively around different locations and precincts by using the BWC livestreaming capabilities. This technology provides them with some critical insights by enabling review of BWC footage in real time, without having to rely on and disrupt dispatch and radio communications.

Officer Wellness and Incident Debriefs. Now more than ever, police agencies recognize that officers both value and often need a formalized review process following critical incidents to help them with understanding and coping with the experience. This is important not only for identifying areas for improvement and training needs but also for validating the good work performed under often very intense and stressful situations. BWC footage provides a tool to employ in these debriefings and can be leveraged to improve tactics, officer safety, and officer wellness. Police will use BWC footage most commonly for critical incident debriefs to examine tactical deployments and use-of-force applications.

Critical incidents themselves often introduce significant amounts of stress for officers with the potential to adversely affect their psychological and emotional wellness, and in some cases even lead to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Using BWC footage to highlight good work and sound decision-making can validate officers’ performances under stress and help those officers appreciate just how challenging and difficult their situation was. Focusing on the “good” that the officers did rather than exclusively on what should have been done differently or better provides support and validation to the officers and can also demonstrate and reinforce outstanding work to others. Stress and PTSD associated with critical incidents is often derived from an officer’s belief or feeling that they *should have done something differently*; reviewing BWC footage can provide an opportunity for them to see a more realistic and contextual perspective, rather than 20/20 hindsight.

Radar. As basic as it sounds, some officers will activate their BWC while running radar for traffic enforcement and use the BWC to capture the radar device display as an additional means to demonstrate and validate what the radar displayed. If the officer can capture the correct angle, they may potentially be able to capture video of the speeding vehicle. This additional video evidence can validate the officer’s account, particularly when citizens opt to go to court to try to refute the officer’s citation for speeding violations.

Non-Commissioned Personnel. A parking enforcement officer’s job can upset citizens and can be a very difficult job. Some people associate parking monitors with police officers, no one welcomes a parking ticket, and confrontations can and do occur often. Although BWCs have not been widely adopted for civilian parking enforcement personnel, they have been adopted by some departments.

The benefits of BWC for these personnel are similar to those for patrol or traffic officers. BWCs can assist parking monitors with documenting parked vehicles that are in violation of a code, and also those encounters in which citizens demonstrate unruly and even unlawful behavior toward the parking official.

The Wichita Police Department authorizes BWCs to their non-sworn Community Service Officers (CSOs) who can and will respond and assist with non-criminal traffic accidents. These CSOs are not in a traditional police uniform but do wear clothing that clearly identifies them as civilian members of the department. Citizens may directly associate CSOs with the police department. Wichita will deploy BWCs for them for the same reasons they do for sworn officers —transparency, accountability documentation, and because BWCs enhance evidentiary value.

Medical Tactical Officers. Some agencies have medical experts assigned to their SWAT and other tactical response teams. Whether these personnel are trained and authorized to carry firearms, equipping them with BWCs can be beneficial in reviewing incidents where the medical officers were deployed and can provide useful training and after-action insights with lessons learned. If these officers are equipped with BWCs that have livestreaming capabilities, real-time connection to medical centers or specialists could prove critical in responding to cases of serious injury to citizens or officers.

Information and Complaints. Wichita police officers will sometimes activate BWCs when fielding phone calls from citizens to help capture more accurately information that is being conveyed. They have found that putting the calls on speaker phone and recording them with BWCs provides the department with the ability to capture spontaneously and more accurately the information received in real-time, rather than relying on handwritten notetaking. Supervisory personnel in Wichita also found that using this technique can help assess and resolve citizen complaints when they receive calls from citizens who either accurately or inaccurately describe an officer's behaviors. This footage can be used and compared to the officer's account and other sources of information surrounding the incident, and also serves as a reference if the complainant changes their account of what happened.

Social media provides an instant forum for people to provide commentary and video to an unlimited audience. When some of the commentary and or video posted by citizens provides only a limited, or even slanted, perspective on police activities, the police are able to use their BWC video to provide a more comprehensive perspective on what occurred. Often, postings by some citizens will show only a snapshot of an event or interaction where police were involved; BWC video can clarify what actually occurred and also be used to demonstrate that the police response was appropriate, justified, and needed.

Proactive Transparency. Perhaps the most under-appreciated and underused benefit of BWCs by police agencies is pushing out to their communities and media the outstanding, largely unrecognized work that their officers do on a daily basis. BWC footage provides agencies the ability to demonstrate the good work and help that police do that is not sensationalized in the media. However, proactively communicating such positive messages takes effort and dedication. Agencies that use BWC footage in this manner will be able to improve understanding, communications, and empathy from those they serve, and communities can learn about the public service and community engagement aspects of policing.

Conclusion

Although a reform sentiment may have pushed agencies, and now (some) states, to adopt BWCs to improve police accountability and transparency, agencies and communities around the country appear to recognize a fuller range of the benefits of BWCs. Whereas, six to eight years ago, it was not uncommon to hear that officers were resistant to adoption of BWCs, a common mantra today is that officers do not want to go out on the street without them.

Advancements in police field investigations continue to evolve with interviewing, evidence collection, tactical strategies, and technology. When purposefully and properly deployed, BWCs have been shown to help police improve outcomes such as officer safety, reduced complaints, enhanced evidence, and better training. BWCs have gained in popularity, police personnel have become more accustomed to their use, and there is a growing trend of using this technology to improve policing in innovative ways. The innovative practices outlined in this document will become more prevalent, and additional benefits will become apparent in the future.

Police are responsible for addressing many issues for their communities that go far beyond enforcing laws and combatting crime. With limited resources and capacities, it is critical for police to use all of their tools to enhance

their effectiveness and efficiency. This report touches on some of the innovative ways that BWCs can be, and are being, used by police. We hope that this information will not only offer agencies additional guidance on using BWCs but also stimulate new and beneficial applications that can be shared with agencies nationwide.