BODY WORN CAMERAS
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Barrie Police Service is conducting a pilot of body-worn cameras to capture video and audio evidence. Cameras will be worn attached to the officers' uniforms (usually on the chest).

The video will provide visual evidence to be used in court proceedings but will also contribute to the transparency in our community.

WILL THE CAMERAS BE 'ALWAYS ON'?

When equipped with a body-worn camera (BWC), officers will activate the camera as soon as reasonably possible when arriving at a call for service or at the decision to initiate any investigative contact.

Officers equipped with a BWC will ensure that the camera is not activated to record circumstances or locations that have substantially heightened expectations of privacy.

Notification of BWC activation is required unless the officer believes that it is necessary to ensure public safety or to continue the investigative contact.

When an officer is lawfully entitled to enter a private place in an emergency situation or on the authority of a warrant, the officer is lawfully permitted to have their BWC activated during their presence at the location. Under these circumstances, officers must advise the occupants of the use of body-worn cameras as soon as reasonably possible.

Body-worn cameras continually buffer a thirty-second loop of film in stand-by mode so when the officer starts the recording, the previous thirty-seconds are captured. There is no audio recorded in the thirty-second buffer recording prior to the record button being activated.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE FOOTAGE?

BWC footage is uploaded to a secure server for use in investigative processes, evidence in court and other proceedings. Film not required for evidentiary purposes will be deleted within one (1) year.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I'M BEING RECORDED?

When equipped with a BWC, officers must inform the public they are being recorded. When recording, the body-worn camera will have a flashing red circle in the centre. This recording light can be disabled by the officers but only in cases where the flashing light could be an officer safety issue.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO BE RECORDED?

In a public place, officers do not require your consent to record. In a private place, officers do require your consent to record unless there is authorization by warrant to enter the private place or the situation is exigent. Under these circumstances, officers must advise the occupants of the use of the body-worn camera as soon as reasonably possible.

CAN OFFICERS DELETE OR EDIT THE VIDEO?

Officers do not have the ability to delete or edit the video recorded on the body-worn camera. When officers dock their body-worn camera at the completion of their shift, the footage automatically uploads to the secure virtual server and is retained for one (1) year, unless required for evidentiary purposes.

DO I HAVE ANY RIGHT TO VIEW THE VIDEO?

Recorded video is classified as police information and may only be obtained by written request under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

WHAT ABOUT MY RIGHT TO PRIVACY?

Officers can record interactions in a public setting without consent. In a private place, officers do require your consent to record unless there is authorization by warrant to enter the private place or it is an emergency situation.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BODY-WORN CAMERAS IF I WANT TO MAKE A COMPLAINT?

Any body-worn camera footage that has been recorded will be retained for a minimum period of one (1) year unless required for court proceeding or evidentiary purposes.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE CAMERA GETS LOST OR THERE IS A TECHNICAL FAULT?

It is unlikely that a body-worn camera will be lost but if it does occur, all recorded data is protected and secure. If there is a technical fault, officers will rely on their notes from the incident.

For further information find us at:

WWW.BARRIEPOLICE.CA

705-725-7025

110 FAIRVIEW ROAD, BARRIE, ON L4N 8X8

@BARRIEPOLICE

@BARRIEPOLICESERVICE

AXON

BARRIE POLICE