



The Worthington Division of Police is implementing a body-worn camera program to increase accountability, strengthen trust and relationships with members of the community and provide accurate information about police interactions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a body-worn camera?

A forward-facing audio and video capturing system that is worn on the officer's uniform to record police interactions.

Why is the Worthington Division of Police implementing a body-worn camera program?

The Worthington Division of Police believes the use of body-worn cameras will:

- Strengthen community trust and relationships.
- Promote transparency with the public.
- Promote officer safety while safeguarding the rights and privacy of community members.
- Improve the quality of information available for police investigations.
- Improve training and performance.
- Provide accurate information about police interactions.

Are all Worthington Police officers wearing body cameras?

All uniformed patrol officers wear body cameras as part of their uniform. The camera is worn on the upper torso of the officer's uniform. Non-uniformed officers and supervisors may wear body cameras when they are engaged in some law-enforcement activities.

Does the Worthington Division of Police have a policy on when and how to use body cameras?

Yes, the Division spent a great deal of time researching model policies and best practices to develop a policy that meets the needs of our community and Division. The policy follows the guidelines of the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification Standards. [Read the policy here](#)

Have officers been trained to use the body worn cameras?

Yes, each officer has been trained in the objectives of the program, camera operation, proper placement, Division policy, recording responsibilities and expectations, and access, storage and retention policies and procedures.

Are police body cameras activated at all times?

No, officers do not have body cameras activated all the time, such as when they are just walking down the street or entering a business while not on an official call. Officers only activate body cameras when responding to calls for service or when they are engaged in any law enforcement-related activities as outlined in the policy.

Will I know if I am being recorded?

Officers may advise citizens when encounters are being recorded if it is practical to do so. In most cases, when involved in a situation that involves law enforcement presence, it is best to assume that the encounter is being recorded. Citizens may ask the officer if the body-worn camera is recording.

What if I don't want to be recorded? Can I ask the officer to turn off the video camera?

It depends on the situation. If you are in a public place or a place with no reasonable expectation of privacy, the officers may not turn off their camera. However, if you are at your residence or in another situation or location where privacy is a concern, the officer may accommodate a reasonable request if stopping the recording will not in any way hamper an investigation or law enforcement purpose.

What about my privacy during police encounters?

The Division is aware of the potential for privacy concerns of those captured in recordings. Typically, officers will not record in places where there is an expectation of privacy, such as restrooms, locker rooms, and medical patient care areas — unless there is reasonable suspicion a crime is being committed or the recording of the location is material to an investigation. There may be times when officers should be sensitive to a situation and use discretion while handling certain calls for service.

What about my privacy if I am just a bystander?

If a video is to be released to the public according to public records law, some content will be redacted that is not pertinent to the specific event. This includes bystanders, juveniles, personal information, and other non-related identifiers such as license plate numbers and addresses. Our priority is to protect privacy rights and safeguard non-related parties and information.

When is an officer able to turn the recording off?

The recording may be stopped when the officer believes direct participation in the incident no longer exists or to address privacy concerns. Recording may also be stopped during significant periods of inactivity such as report writing or other breaks.

Will officers be able to edit, erase or redact their videos?

No, officers cannot edit the video in any way. They will be able to tag (label) the videos after they are recorded with dates, locations, key words, or other pertinent information for tracking purposes.

How will the video recordings be stored and how long do you keep them?

At the end of each shift, officers upload the video into a secure cloud-based information storage system. According to our records retention policy, videos will be kept a minimum of 180 days. If a video contains information related to a criminal or administrative investigation or is needed for a pending court case, it will be kept as long as needed. Videos that are not needed will be automatically deleted after 180 days.

Will the Department continue to use in-car cameras?

Patrol car cameras are still important and complement the use of body cameras. In-car cameras are fixed to the police vehicle and only capture video and audio from the front and interior of the vehicle. Body-worn cameras allow the technology to accompany the officer wherever they go. The body and in-car camera systems are synchronized to document incidents from multiple perspectives.

How can I request a copy of body worn camera video?

The release of any body-worn camera recordings will be done according to public records law and the City's records retention policy. [Requests for public records can be made](#) here or by calling the Worthington Division of Police at 614-436-6595.