

	STAMFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER	Distribution	General Order Number
		ALL PERSONNEL	5.26
Order Title: BODY WORN AND IN-CAR CAMERAS		Original Issue Date	Effective Date
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		Section Title PATROL FUNCTIONS	
Rescinds:			
741- Body-Worn Cameras		Timothy Shaw, Chief of Police	

This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

I. PURPOSE

- The purpose of this policy is to establish Stamford Police Department guidelines and limitations for the use and management of body-worn camera and in-car camera systems including the use, management, storage and retrieval of digital multimedia video files stored on or generated from the use of department issued or approved camera equipment , including but not limited to:
 - Creating video and audio records to contribute to the accurate documentation of critical incidents, police-public contacts, crime and accident scenes, and arrests.
 - Preserving visual and audio information for use in current and future investigations in accordance with applicable guidelines referenced herein.
 - Capturing crimes in-progress, whether committed against the police officer or the community, and to preserve evidence for presentation in court.
 - Documenting police response to an incident.
 - Aiding in the documentation of victim, witness or suspect statements pursuant to an on-scene response and/or documentation of the advisement of rights, and consents to conduct a lawful search, when applicable.
 - Reducing the number of false complaints made against a police officer in the course and scope of his or her official police duties.

II. POLICY

The Stamford Police Department is committed to the belief that on-officer body-worn and in-car camera system is an important and valuable tool for law enforcement. On-officer video is essentially audio-video documentation of a police officer's investigative and enforcement activities from the perspective of the officer's person. The use of on-officer video is expected to result in greater transparency, more effective prosecution, and improved protection against false allegations of excessive use of force, misconduct or racial profiling.

The use of body-worn and in-car camera systems provides documentation of law enforcement interaction with the public by providing recorded evidence of actions, conditions and statements that may be used for court proceedings, internal review, or review by the public through formal request. Goals of a body-worn camera system include officer safety, to accurately document events during the course of an incident, to provide prosecutors with the best evidence for court proceedings, and to determine the accuracy of complaints made against Stamford Police Department officers. The Stamford Police Department will utilize the Axon camera system.

This Stamford Police Department has adopted the use of body-worn and in-car systems in order to accomplish several objectives, including:

- a. **Strengthening police accountability** by documenting incidents and encounters between officers and the public.
- b. **Resolving officer-involved incidents and complaints** by providing an objectively independent record of events.
- c. **Improving agency transparency** by allowing the public to see video evidence of police activities and encounters in accordance with applicable laws regarding public disclosure.
- d. **Identifying and strengthening officer performance** by using footage for officer training and monitoring when appropriate and consistent with the law.
- e. **Improving evidence documentation** for investigation, prosecutions, and administrative reviews of employee performance and/or civil actions.

Officers are prohibited from erasing, altering, or tampering with any mobile audio or video equipment or attempting to erase, alter or tamper with any video or audio equipment, including intentionally stopping/starting a recording.

III. DEFINITIONS

Axon System: A body-worn audio/video recording system primarily consisting of a camera with mic and a removable battery pack that is worn by the Police Officer to capture digital multimedia evidence during the course and scope of their police duties. Referred to as "Body worn camera" (BWC) throughout this document. The Stamford police currently use the

Axon Body Camera.

In-Car Camera/Dashboard: A vehicle borne camera system mounted in Stamford Police Department marked cruisers consisting of a video camera, hard mounted screen and controls, and in vehicle storage. Referred to as “in-car video” throughout this document. The Stamford police currently use the Axon Fleet in-car system.

Police Patrol Vehicle: Any state or local police vehicle other than administrative vehicle in which an occupant is wearing body worn camera equipment, a bicycle, a motor scooter, an all-terrain vehicle, an electric personal assistive mobility device, or an animal control vehicle.

Interacting with the Public in a Law Enforcement capacity: Means that a police officer is in personal contact with one or more members of the public, the purpose of which is to conduct a self-initiated investigation into, or to respond to a third party complaint involving, the possible commission of any offense, violation, or infraction.

Administrative Search Warrant: Any search warrant that is executed from an office setting with in the police department and does not have potential for confrontation or use of force. Examples of these warrants include, but are not limited to, financial, internet or telephone records, served through electronic means, or the execution of warrants on cellular telephone or electronic devices already in the possession or care of the Stamford Police Department.

Digital Storage Media: Any medium used to store digital media for evidence purposes, such as CD, DVD, USB, or other storage media.

Event Tags: The labeling identifier for various calls for service used within the ETM and on the BWC systems.

Retention Rules: A set of rules within the Evidence.com system that apply to the various Event Tags. This system allows for the automatic and immediate assignment of general retention guidelines of recorded events that fall within the retention for the Freedom of Information Act and State Library of records requirements. These may be adjusted after the fact by the Chief of Police’s system designee.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. General

1. The Stamford Police Department has authorized the use of body-worn and in-car camera systems. The Department will use the camera systems to document events and capture data, which will be preserved in a secure manner to be determined by the Stamford Police Department. Once captured, these recordings cannot be altered in any way, and are protected with multiple layers of encryption. The Stamford Police Department has adopted the use of body-worn and in-car camera systems to accomplish the following objectives:

- a. To enhance officer safety.
 - b. To accurately document statements and events during the course of an incident.
 - c. To enhance the officer's ability to document and review statements and actions for both internal reporting requirements and for courtroom preparation/testimony.
 - d. To preserve visual and audio information for use in current and future investigations.
 - e. To provide an impartial measurement for self-critique and field evaluation during officer training or coaching and mentoring sessions.
 - f. To enhance the public trust by preserving factual representations of officer-citizen interactions in the form of video and audio recordings.
2. All department issued or approved camera equipment and media associated with the cameras, data, images, video/audio and metadata captured, recorded, or otherwise produced by the body-worn and dashboard cameras shall not be viewed, copied, released, disclosed, or disseminated in any form or manner outside the parameters of this policy pursuant to the department's FOI policy and practice.
 3. Each Stamford police officer shall use body worn and in-car dashboard camera equipment while interacting with the public in such sworn member's law enforcement capacity in accordance with the department's policy, if adopted by the department and based upon the guidelines established by the POST Council and DESPP.
 4. This policy does not govern the use of surreptitious/covert recordings devices used in undercover operations

B. Operational Use- Body Worn Cameras

1. Body-worn cameras shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and Stamford Police Department training and policies.
2. The body-worn cameras shall be worn at all times by the assigned officer.
3. Officers assigned to Investigative Services or other special assignments operating in that capacity shall carry their department issued body-worn camera

and have it fully functional, charged and available for use. Investigators should make every attempt to utilize the body-worn camera in accordance with this policy, but it is recognized that due to the sensitive nature of their work it is not always prudent. Investigators unsure if and when to deploy their body-worn camera should consult with their immediate supervisor and/or their States Attorney.

4. Issued or approved body-worn cameras shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended guidelines, department training and department policies and procedures.
5. Prior to each shift, officers shall test and inspect the body-worn camera for any physical damage and to ensure the system is fully charged and operational. Only fully charged and operational systems shall be used.
6. If problems are encountered with any component of the system, the body-worn camera shall not be used, and the officers shall arrange for repair or replacement through established departmental procedures. The officer shall immediately be provided with a replacement body-worn camera.
7. Malfunctions, damage, loss, or theft of any part of the body-worn camera shall be immediately reported to a supervisor. The officers shall immediately be provided with a replacement body-worn camera.
8. Officers issued or assigned a body-worn camera shall wear such camera on their outmost garment and shall position it above the midline of his/her torso when in use.
9. While it is generally implied that words and/or actions performed in the presence of a police officer have no expectation of privacy, if asked the officer will inform the person they are being recorded. This should be documented in the officer's report.
10. Police officers issued or assigned a body-worn and dashboard cameras shall activate the camera while interacting with the public in a law enforcement capacity.
11. This policy is not intended to describe every possible situation in which a body-worn or in-car dashboard camera should be used. Sound judgment and discretion shall dictate when a body-worn or in-car dashboard camera is activated; however, officers should record the following types of incidents unless unsafe, impossible or impractical to do so:
 - a. Vehicle and pedestrian investigative detentions and stops;
 - b. Observed unlawful conduct;
 - c. Pursuits (including foot pursuits);

- d. Use of force;
- e. High-risk situations;
- f. Advising an individual of Miranda rights;
- g. Statements made by suspects, victims, or witnesses;
- h. Interviews with suspects, victims, or witnesses;
- i. Vehicle searches;
- j. K-9 deployments;
- k. Physical arrest of persons;
- l. Transportation and processing of prisoners;
- m. Observed items of evidentiary value;
- n. Service of a Search Warrant;
- o. Service of an Arrest Warrant;
- p. An encounter initiated by a private person (flag down);
- q. Any contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact in a situation that would not otherwise require recording;
- r. Any other circumstances where the officer believes recording an incident would be appropriate.

Note: At no time shall police officers disregard officer safety or the safety of the public for the purpose of activating or utilizing the body-worn and dashboard cameras.

- 12. The cameras should generally be used during incidents that create reasonable suspicion in the mind of a reasonable police officer that a crime has been committed, is being committed, or will be committed in the future.
- 13. Officers, who do not activate their body-worn or dashboard cameras in situations where they were required to as outlined above, may be subject to discipline. If a citizen complaint is made and the officer does not activate his body-worn camera as required, it will be a factor examined when determining final resolution of the investigation.
- 14. Once a body-worn or dashboard camera is activated, it shall not be intentionally turned off until the incident has reached a conclusion. Additional police officers arriving on a scene that have been issued or assigned a body-worn and dashboard cameras shall also record the interaction with the public, and shall also continue to record until the completion of the incident. For purposes of this policy, conclusion of an interaction with the public occurs when a police officer terminates his/her law enforcement contact with a member of the public. If it becomes necessary to discuss issues surrounding an investigation with a supervisor or another officer in private, the officer may turn off their body-worn camera; thereby preventing their private conversation from being recorded.
- 15. The use of a body-worn or dashboard camera does not replace the need for required documentation. All incident/supplemental reports shall be completed, regardless of the video that has been captured.

16. Whenever an officer records an incident or any portion of an incident, which that officer reasonably believes will likely lead to a citizen complaint, the officer shall immediately bring it to the attention of his/her supervisor.
17. In situations requiring a report and/or citation, officers **SHALL** document the use of a body-worn or dashboard camera in the following manner:
 - a. Within the synopsis **AND** narrative portions of an incident report, or
 - b. Within a supplemental report, or
 - c. As a notation on a citation.
18. Officers wearing a body-worn camera may use the system to capture statements from victims, witnesses, and suspects in place of utilizing a digital recorder. The use of a body-worn camera for such purposes shall be documented in the same manner as above.
19. Once video is captured and downloaded, officers shall identify the data file within the following manner:
 - a. Selecting the appropriate category. In the event more than one category is applicable, the category with the longer retention rate **SHALL** be selected.

C. Operational Use- In Car Cameras

1. Dashboard camera equipment shall be set to automatically activate in the following situations:
 - a. Upon activation of the emergency lights on the vehicle;
 - b. When the rear passenger door to the prisoner cage is opened, or in vehicles with a full prisoner cage, when either rear door is opened.

The equipment will continue to record until it is manually stopped

2. The equipment can be manually activated from inside the vehicle.
3. The equipment may be manually deactivated during non-enforcement activities, such as when protecting accident scenes from other vehicular traffic.

General Use:

The following guidelines shall be used by Officers when operating dashboard camera equipment:

- a. Ensure that the video camera is positioned and adjusted to record events.
 - b. The equipment shall not be deactivated until the enforcement action or event being recorded has completed.
 - c. The equipment will not be used in a manner that would bring discredit upon the officer, the department, or the City of Stamford.
 - d. All officers are required to log into the Axon Fleet dashboard at the beginning of their shift.
4. When deactivating the system, officers should verbally record the reason for the system shut down.
 5. Officers relying on an automatic trigger should always visually check the system to ensure activation occurred.
 6. Activation is not required when exchanging information with other officers or during breaks, lunch periods, when not in service or actively on patrol.

D. Required Use

Officers in vehicles with dashboard cameras shall activate the camera while interacting the public in a law enforcement capacity. Officers will be required to use the equipment under the following circumstances:

1. All responses to calls when emergency lights, siren, or both are engaged;
2. All vehicle pursuits;
3. Foot pursuits;
4. All traffic stops, including high risk/felony stops;
5. All DWI investigations;
6. Motorist assists;
7. When a person is detained and placed in the rear of the patrol vehicle;
8. During contacts with any person suspected of criminal activity;

9. Response to in-progress crimes;
10. Prisoner transports;
11. Serving arrest warrants;
12. Consent to search a vehicle;
13. Deployment of canines;
14. Physical or verbal confrontations or use of force;
15. Domestic violence calls;
16. Any situation or event that the officer believes should be recorded;
17. Whenever directed to do so by a supervisor;
18. When interacting with the public in a law enforcement capacity;
19. Any incident or event not otherwise prohibited by this policy, which may be dangerous, unpredictable, or potentially useful for department training purposes;
20. Situations where a police officer, by reason of training and experience, determines that the incident should be documented on video: and
21. Any incident or event not otherwise prohibited by this policy, where the police officer anticipates a use of force encounter may occur.

Note: At no time shall police officers disregard officer safety or the safety of the public for the purpose of activating or utilizing the body-worn and dashboard cameras.

E. Operational Prohibitions / Restrictions

1. Officers shall not modify, tamper, dismantle, or attempt to make repairs to the body-worn or in-car cameras. Any officer, who intentionally disables or damages any part of the body-worn or in-car camera, or who fails to activate or deactivate the system required by this policy without justifiably reason, will be held accountable and subject to criminal and/or internal disciplinary action.
2. Officers will not enable a password protected lock on the device in case a situation arises that another officer or supervisor needs to retrieve recorded evidence from the device.
3. Department-issued body worn and in-car cameras are intended for official Departmental use only and are not to be used for frivolous or personal activities. Intentional misuse or abuse of the units will result in disciplinary action.
4. To respect the dignity of others, members utilizing body-worn cameras will make reasonable efforts to avoid recording persons who are nude, or when sensitive areas are exposed.
5. Body-worn cameras **SHALL NOT** be activated in places where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists, such as locker rooms, dressing rooms, or

restrooms unless there is a call for service in that area where law enforcement response is needed.

6. Except as otherwise required by this policy, no police officer shall use body-worn or dashboard recording equipment to intentionally record:
 - a. A communication with other law enforcement agency personnel, except as the officer performs his or her duties;
 - b. An encounter with an undercover officer or informant
 - c. When an officer is on break or is otherwise engaged in a personal activity;
 - d. A person undergoing a medical or psychological evaluation, procedure or treatment;
 - e. Any person other than a suspect to a crime if an officer is wearing his/her issued or approved body-worn camera in a hospital or other medical facility setting; or
 - f. In a mental health facility, unless responding to a call involving a suspect to a crime who is thought to be present in the facility.
 - g. Any private conversation to which the officer is not a party; or
 - h. Any telephonic conversation unless specifically authorized by law while in the performance of their official duties.
 - i. A strip search
 - j. In a locker room, changing room or restroom, unless confronting a violent or assaultive suspect or in an incident involving the anticipated use of force.
7. The intentional recording of confidential informants and undercover officers is prohibited, unless authorized by a supervisor.
8. Non-work-related personal activity shall not be recorded.
9. Under no circumstances shall any recordings be used or shown for the sole purpose of bringing ridicule or embarrassment upon any person.
10. Officers shall not use body-worn cameras to make surreptitious recordings of other department members, except as necessary in the course of a criminal investigation or for department administrative investigations, and only with the consent of the Chief of Police.
11. Officers **SHALL NOT** make copies of any recording for their personal use and are prohibited from using a recording device (such as a camera phone or secondary video camera) to record media from the server or any device utilized to view data recorded on body-worn cameras.
12. Officers are prohibited from using their personal phone or smart device for body-worn camera applications.

13. Any uploading or converting digital recordings for use on any type of social media is prohibited.
14. In incidents involving an officer's use of force (as defined in General Order [3.01: Use of Force - General](#)) officers may review their video of the incident before the officer has completed his/her force investigation report. Once the officer has completed his/her use of force report he/she may also view the video with the Supervisor conducting the force investigation. Any discrepancies or additional information determined by the review of the video will be documented and explained by the Supervisor in his/her evaluation of force report.
15. Deactivation of BWC Under Certain Circumstances
 - a. Although generally, body-worn and in-car cameras should remain activated until the conclusion of an incident, officers may deactivate the body-worn or in-car cameras should they determine that, based upon the circumstances; the investigation could be significantly hampered if the recording were to continue. Whenever possible, police officers should consult with supervisors before making the decision to deactivate their body-worn cameras.
 - b. Whenever possible, a police officer who deactivates the body-worn or in-car camera during the course of an event in which this policy otherwise requires recording, shall both record on the camera the reason for the interruption or termination of recording prior to deactivating the body-worn cameras, and document such event in their report.
16. When circumstances prevent a police officer from activating a body-worn or dashboard camera or cause a camera to be deactivated in accordance with the guidelines established within this policy, the officer shall activate or reactivate their cameras as soon as practical.
17. If any malfunctioning or unintentional failure to record in accordance with this policy occurs, the officer shall document the reason and notify their supervisor regarding the lack of recording. Such documentation shall be in a manner determined by the Chief of Police.

D. End of Shift Procedures

1. Officers shall ensure that all files from an issued or approved body-worn cameras are securely downloaded and retained in accordance with this policy, with sufficient frequency so as to ensure that there remains adequate data storage available for recording future incidents.

2. Officers shall cause the recorded video to be stored, downloaded, transferred or otherwise saved and labeled or cataloged as evidence in the following circumstances:
 - a. Any incident where an arrest is made or may be made, and/or a search is conducted;
 - b. An event that captures an officer's reportable use of force in the discharge of their official duties;
 - c. Any interaction with the public where the officer determines that it would be prudent to retain the recording for longer than the minimum retention period set forth in this policy.
 - d. An event that is a major motor vehicle or criminal incident involving death, serious injury, or catastrophic property damage.
3. All video files from the in-car camera system will upload to the Axon System through the cellular signal from the in-car modem. The officer should tag any videos produced by the in-car system with all pertinent information, including CAD/Case numbers, call descriptions and any necessary tags.

E. Deletion of Unintentional Recordings

1. In the event of an unintentional activation of the body-worn or in-car cameras during non-enforcement or non-investigative activities, e.g. restroom or meal break, other areas where reasonable expectation of privacy exists: officers may request recording deletion.

F. Accountability, Review and Security

1. All body-worn camera users will be responsible for monitoring system effectiveness and making recommendations for operational improvement and policy revision.
2. The Stamford Police Department will ensure officers, detectives, supervisors, and non-law enforcement court personnel have access to recorded events for legitimate law enforcement purposes or other articulated reasons.
3. Officers authorized under this policy may review video as it relates to:
 - a. Their involvement in an incident for the purposes of completing a criminal investigation and preparing official reports.
 - b. Prior to courtroom testimony or for courtroom presentation.

- c. Providing a statement pursuant to an administrative inquiry/investigation.
 - d. For training purposes.
- 4. All body-worn or in-car camera file requests shall be made thru the Records Department or the Chief of Police or designee.
- 5. A supervisor may review a specific incident contained on digital media for the purpose of training, critique, policy review, administrative inquiry, or other articulated reasons.
- 6. AXON automatically time/date stamps each recording and upload of same by the assigned officer name.
- 7. All digital media collected using body-worn and/or in-car cameras is considered a record of the Stamford Police Department. Access to recordings shall be granted to authorized users only. It is the responsibility of authorized users to keep their username and password confidential. Accessing, copying, or releasing any recordings for other than official law enforcement purposes is strictly prohibited, except as required by law.
- 8. Evidentiary copies of digital recordings will be accessed and copied from the Evidence.com for official law enforcement purposes only.
- 9. The release of requested digital media through written public records request will be subject to the same statutory exemptions from disclosure as any other department records classified under Connecticut State Statute.
- 10. The Stamford Police Department's video administrator will conduct quarterly audits to verify and deactivate users who are no longer authorized.
- 11. If in the course of viewing BWC, minor acts of misconduct unrelated to the original reason for viewing the video are discovered, they will not result in discipline or a sustained finding. However, such acts may result in a training referral, mediation, or counseling. Examples of minor misconduct include but are not limited to uniform violations, rudeness, and profanity. Comments that disparage a protected class under city, state, or federal law are not considered minor misconduct.
- 12. While discipline may be imposed as a result of an officer violating policy, the mere fact that a violation occurred will not necessarily be grounds for discipline. The Chief of Police will review the totality of the circumstances in determining whether counseling, training, or discipline may be appropriate.
- 13. If a police officer is giving a formal statement about the use of force, or if an officer is the subject of a disciplinary investigation in which a recording from

body-worn or dashboard recording equipment is being considered as part of a review of an incident. The police officer shall have the right to review such recording in the presence of the officer's attorney or union representative. Further, such police officers' body-worn recording equipment capturing the police officers' image or voice during the incident under review. No officer shall be required to give an interview, statement, or generate a report until after he/she has had the opportunity to review all recordings, as outlined above. In the advent an officer is issued a "5-day letter", it shall include a statement of having the right to view all recordings as outlined above, with a SPA rep and/or attorney.

G. Supervisory Responsibilities

1. Supervisory personnel shall ensure that officers equipped with body-worn and in-car cameras utilize them in accordance with policy and procedures defined herein.
2. Supervisors shall periodically inspect issued or approved body-worn camera and in-car equipment assigned to officers to ensure proper operability per testing protocols provided through training and manufacturer's recommendations.
3. Supervisors will periodically review Evidence.com to ensure videos are not uncategorized.
4. Supervisors or other persons designated by the Chief of Police may periodically review issued or approved body-worn and dashboard cameras recordings of traffic stops and citizen contacts in accordance with this policy as well as reports generated as a result of these incidents to:
 - a. Ensure body-worn and dashboard cameras equipment is operating properly;
 - b. Ensure that police officers are utilizing the body-worn and dashboard cameras appropriately and in accordance with policies and procedures; and
 - c. Identify any areas in which additional training policy revisions or guidance is required.
5. Should circumstances require the immediate retrieval of a digital recording (e.g., agency shootings), a supervisor shall respond to the scene to secure the body-worn camera system and maintain chain of custody.
6. Supervisors shall ensure that all body-worn and dashboard cameras video files are appropriately preserved in accordance with this policy.

H. Chief of Police Responsibilities

1. The Chief of Police shall designate one or more department members to oversee and administer the storage and management of all digital multimedia video files generated by the use of issued or authorized dashboard cameras.
2. The Chief of Police may authorize body-worn and in-car camera policy that provides additional guidelines and training requirements not mandated by this policy, provided that it does not conflict with state or federal law or the provisions set forth in this policy.
3. The Chief of Police shall ensure the body-worn and in-car camera data collection and storage is purged from the systems operation storage and/or software program in accordance with the State of Connecticut Library Records of Retention schedule and department policy.
4. The Chief of Police shall ensure that body-worn and in-car camera video files that are subject to a preservation request or court order are appropriately catalogued and preserved.

I. Retention of Video

1. Whenever practical, officers should download video utilizing the Evidence.com software. At the end of their shift, officers **SHALL** place the body-worn camera into the docking station. This will allow remaining evidence to be transferred from the system to the server, and for the battery to be charged. The system should not be removed from the dock until the data has been uploaded, and the battery is fully charged.
2. Digital multimedia files shall be maintained in an approved storage location, such as a server, storage device, cloud storage, website or other approved secure storage media, authorized by the Chief of Police.
3. Digital multimedia files will be retained for the time period defined by this policy or retention schedule as defined by the Stamford Police Department. Digital multimedia files as evidence will be maintained according to the retention schedule set by the Connecticut State Library - Office of the Public Records Administrator.
4. Digital multimedia files shall be preserved while a case remains open and under investigation, or while criminal or civil proceedings are ongoing or reasonably anticipated, or in accordance with the State Records of Retention schedule, whichever is greater.

5. Nothing in these guidelines shall require the Stamford Police Department to store such data for a period longer than one year, except in the case where the Department knows the data is pertinent to any ongoing civil, criminal or administrative matter.
6. All other digital multimedia files reproduced for evidentiary purposes or otherwise caused to be preserved shall be maintained for a minimum of four (4) years.
7. Digital multimedia files shall be preserved in accordance with any specific request by representatives of the Division of Criminal Justice, Municipal Attorney, Officer of the Attorney General, retained counsel and other authorized claims representatives in the course of their official duties.
8. Digital multimedia files shall be preserved in response to oral, electronic or written preservation requests from any member of the public where such requests indicate that litigation may be reasonably anticipated.
 - a. All such preservation requests shall promptly be brought to the attention of the recipient's supervisor and the Corporate Counsel's office.

J. Releasing or Duplicating Body-Worn or In-Car Camera Recordings

1. Processing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests:
 - a. All FOIA requests for body-worn or in-car cameras downloaded data files shall be processed through the office of the Chief of Police or their designee.
 - b. Duplicating Body-worn or In-car cameras Downloaded Data Files
 - i. When a police officer who is required to produce a digital multimedia video file pursuant to a subpoena or other court order, the Chief of Police or other designee shall arrange, prior to the date of the court appearance, for a copy of the required portion of the original video file to be duplicated.
 - ii. The original video file, as well as any duplicate copy, shall be held as evidence in accordance with this policy.

K. Authorized Personnel Access to Digital Multimedia Files

1. General access to digital multimedia files shall be granted to authorize personnel only. Accessing, copying, or releasing any digital multimedia video files for other than official law enforcement purposes is strictly prohibited, except as otherwise required by state and federal statutes, policies and

procedures.

- a. The Chief of Police or designee(s) may review specific body-worn and dashboard cameras downloaded data files for the purpose of training, performance review, critique, early intervention inquiries, civil claims, administrative inquiry, or other articulable reason.
 - b. A Stamford police officer may review a recording from their body-worn camera recording equipment in order to assist such officer with the preparation of a report or otherwise in the performance of his or her duties.
 - c. If a police officer is giving a formal statement about the use of force or if a police officer is the subject of a disciplinary investigation in which a recording from body-worn recording equipment or a dashboard camera with a remote recorder, is being considered as part of a review of an incident, the officer shall have the right to review (A) such recording in the presence of the officer's attorney or labor representative, and (B) recordings from other body-worn recording equipment capturing the officer's image or voice during the incident. Not later than forty-eight hours following an officer's review of a recording under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, or if the officer does not review the recording, not later than ninety - six hours following the initiation of such disciplinary investigation, whichever is earlier, such recording shall be disclosed, upon request, to the public, subject to the provisions of C.G.S. 29-6d subsection (g).
 - d. If a request is made for public disclosure of a recording from body worn recording equipment or a dashboard camera of an incident about which (A) a police officer has not been asked to give a formal statement about the alleged use of force, or (B) a disciplinary investigation has not been initiated, any police officer whose image or voice is captured on the recording shall have the right to review such recording in the presence of the officer's attorney or labor representative. Not later than forty-eight hours following an officer's review of a recording under this subdivision, or if the officer does not review the recording, not later than ninety-six hours following the request for disclosure, whichever is earlier, such recording shall be disclosed to the public, subject to the provisions of C.G.S. 29-6d subsection (g).
2. Under no circumstances shall any individual with access to body-worn digital multimedia files be allowed to use, show, reproduce or release recordings for the purpose of ridicule or embarrassment of any police officer or any other individual, or for other non-law enforcement related purposes. This includes

disclosure of any portion of a body-worn cameras video file to a media organization unless such disclosure has been approved by the Chief of Police or designee.

3. Digital multimedia files may be reviewed by individuals other than the recording police officer in any of the following situations:
 - a. By a department member investigating or adjudicating a complaint regarding a specific act of officer conduct;
 - b. By technical support staff for purposes of assessing proper functioning of the body-worn cameras;
 - c. By the Internal Affairs Unit or other Unit or person(s) designated by the Chief of Police, when participating in an official misconduct investigation concerning a specific act or officer conduct alleged in a complaint of misconduct;
 - d. By a sworn law enforcement officer who is participating in a criminal investigation;
 - e. By the City of Stamford's legal representative;
 - f. Stamford officers may review a recording from their own issued or assigned body-worn recording equipment in order to assist such officer in providing a statement as a witness to events which are the subject of a department internal administrative inquiry, including officer shooting investigations;
 - g. By representatives of the Division of Criminal Justice, City of Stamford's Attorneys, Office of the Attorney General, retained counsel and other representatives authorized by the municipality, such as municipal insurance carriers, in the course of their official duties; or
 - h. By other department personnel as authorized by the Chief of Police or designee

H. Training

1. The Training Office will maintain the department approved body-worn and in-car camera system training curriculum.
2. Only officers who have successfully completed departmentally approved training in accordance with statutes in the use of the equipment, and in the retention of data created by such equipment are authorized to use body-worn and in-car cameras.

3. Only those officers who have received training in the retention of data created by body-worn or dashboard cameras are authorized to activate and utilize the camera equipment.
4. The Training Officer shall be responsible for providing:
 - a. Basic user training
 - b. Periodic refresher training
5. Every police officer must receive training on the proper care and maintenance of the equipment at least annually.

Revision History

July 6, 2022 (New)- Chief TS