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07/20/16

BODY WORN CAMERAS

This week the Department took a critical step in implementing Body Worn Cameras (BWCs). The first group of San Francisco Police Officers and Sergeants have now been trained and issued their equipment.

These members will be using BWCs across the City, in each of the Districts, in the course of their normal patrol duties. They will then serve as Department wide trainers for all of you as the program rolls out over the course of the next several months. As you wait to attend your training, working side by side with these officers, please review Department General Order 10.11, Body Worn Cameras, as well as Department Bulletin 16-090 and be mindful of the following:

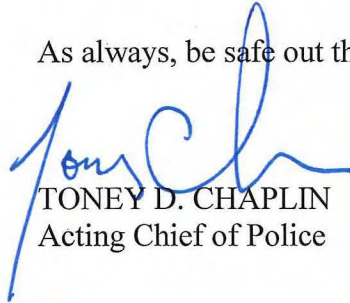
- **The BWC and *all recorded data from the BWC are the property of the Department.***
- **The use of *non-Department* issued BWCs while on-duty is *prohibited.***
- **Members are not required to activate or deactivate a BWC upon the request of a citizen. Nor are members required to play back BWC recordings to allow members of the public to review the video footage.**
- **Members shall not access or view a BWC unless doing so involves a legitimate law enforcement purpose.**
- **Members shall not activate the BWC when encountering:**
 - **Sexual assault and child abuse victims during a preliminary investigation.**
 - **Situations that could compromise the identity of confidential informants and undercover operatives.**
 - **Strip searches.**
- **The senior ranking on-scene supervisor shall take immediate physical custody of a BWC in the following three circumstances:**
 - **The member wearing the camera is the subject of the investigation in an officer involved shooting or in-custody death**
 - **The member wearing the BWC is the subject of a criminal investigation**
 - **At the direction of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.**

BWCs offer a tremendous opportunity for increased evidentiary material, documentation of the work we do and developing investigative leads. It is critical that supervisors recognize the need to allow appropriate time for officers to access, review, and tag video footage.

I am confident that as the Department moves forward with BWCs and we become more comfortable with this emerging technology, our officers and the community will benefit from the implementation of this valuable resource. As you attend BWC training, I ask you to be open to new and different concepts, be engaged, and ask questions. Your

participation and experience will be instrumental in developing training and best practices to address the many types of incidents and circumstances that you and your fellow officers will encounter. Remember that BWCs will assist us as we serve the people who live, work and visit San Francisco.

As always, be safe out there.



TONEY D. CHAPLIN
Acting Chief of Police

Per DB 15-141, sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge this Department Bulletin in HRMS.