

Municipal Clerk's Office

Failed

Date: **October 24, 2023**

Reconsideration Passed

Date: **October 24, 2023**

Approved

Date: **October 24, 2023**

Submitted by: Assembly Members Rivera, Volland,
and Martinez

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office

For reading: October 24, 2023

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2023-353**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY URGING
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION
AND DEPLOYMENT OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS (BWC) AND SUGGESTING
CHANGES TO THE BWC POLICY.**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Assembly approved AO 2020-116(S) on January 26, 2021 sending to the voters a ballot proposition “whether or not the Municipality should levy ... a special tax ... dedicated to pay the costs of leasing [for the Anchorage Police Department] computer-aided dispatch (CAD), record-management system (RMS) and digital-evidence management systems, in-car and body-worn cameras, cameras, and related technology and services”; and

WHEREAS, voters approved Proposition 4 at the regular 2021 Municipal election by 53.81%; and

WHEREAS, media reports and statements from the Anchorage Police Department (APD) portrayed the last and lengthiest delay in implementation and deployment of BWCs as a byproduct of policy disagreements between APD and the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association (APDEA); and

WHEREAS, APD and APDEA announced an agreement on the BWC policy on May 24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, at the October 4, 2023 meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Assembly, APD briefed its two-part implementation of BWCs, with a 30-day pilot fielding of 30 BWCs in late November to be followed by a continuous deployment of the remaining 320 BWCs in coordination with the installation of in-car cameras; and

WHEREAS, the “timeline” posted to APD’s website echoes the information briefed by APD at the Public Safety Committee meeting, stating “We will begin deploying the In-car video/body-worn cameras the week of November 13th and will continue the deployment process until all cameras are in the field. The full deployment of all systems depends on the ability of the radio shop to install the In-Car video system. We will have a better idea of this timeline after AXON provides the training and technical assistance to the installers.”; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors of this Resolution brought forward AO 2023-78, an ordinance to add a requirement for a body-worn camera policy in Anchorage Municipal Code, but decided not to move forward with the ordinance and instead consider putting forward guidance via a resolution to APD; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is brought forward as policy guidance to APD and should not be construed in any way to delay the implementation and deployment of BWCs; and

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WHEREAS, to assist with the implementation and deployment of BWCs, APD is enhancing and strengthening its required reporting of use-of-force, incorporating how and when BWC video can be viewed by officers post-incident; and

WHEREAS, members of the public have continued to urge APD to be transparent about the process and timetables for implementation of BWCs and to consider changes to the BWC policy, especially around release of footage;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Anchorage Assembly urges APD to publish a clear timetable, with objective benchmarks and appropriate caveats, outlining the implementation of the 30 BWC pilot project as well as the full implementation and deployment of all its BWCs.

Section 2. The Anchorage Assembly urges APD to conduct community outreach and education about the implementation, deployment, and use of BWCs including, but not limited to, usage of social media and in-person showcases of the hardware.

Section 3. The Anchorage Assembly urges APD to reconsider section I.F.3. of policy 3.10.110, Body Worn Cameras (draft provided April 2023), “Releasing Body-Worn Camera Recordings”:

- “3. The Chief of Police may proactively release Body-Worn Camera recordings associated with officer involved shootings or other critical incidents before an investigation or criminal court proceeding is complete. Criminal investigative interviews with the involved officers, witnesses, and victims should be completed prior to the public release.”

The Assembly asks this portion to be rewritten to create a timeline for automatic release, instead of relying on the current policy of proactive release, of BWC recordings with officer involved shootings or other critical incidents. This timeline should allow for the quickest possible release of BWC footage.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 24th day of October, 2023.

Christopher Constant

Chair

ATTEST:

Jasmine Acres

Municipal Clerk