



The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530  
June 7, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR        ACTING DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,  
   FIREARMS & EXPLOSIVES  
   ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, DRUG ENFORCEMENT  
   ADMINISTRATION  
   DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
   DIRECTOR, UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE  
   ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR  
   ADMINISTRATION  
   EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM:                        THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL *Lisa Monaco*

SUBJECT:                    BODY-WORN CAMERA POLICY

The Department of Justice recognizes that transparency and accountability in law enforcement operations build trust with the communities we serve. Although the Department's law enforcement components do not regularly conduct patrols or routinely engage with the public in response to emergency calls, there are circumstances where the Department's agents encounter the public during pre-planned law enforcement operations. The Department is committed to the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) by the Department's law enforcement agents in such circumstances.

In October 2020, the Department announced a policy that permits state and local officers on Department of Justice Task Forces to wear and activate BWCs when the use of force is possible – while serving arrest warrants, executing other planned arrest operations, and during the execution of search warrants. Today, based on recommendations from the Department's law enforcement components, I am directing the Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives; the Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Director of the United States Marshals Service to develop and submit for review, within 30 days, component BWC policies that require agents to wear and activate BWC recording equipment for purposes of recording their actions during: (1) a pre-planned attempt to serve an arrest warrant or other pre-planned arrest, including the apprehension of fugitives sought on state and local warrants; or (2) the execution of a search or seizure warrant or order.

Each law enforcement component shall develop its policy and a phased implementation plan for compliance with the above directive no later than 30 days from the date of this memorandum, and shall designate a senior official with responsibility for implementation and oversight of its BWC policy. Each component also shall ensure immediately that partners serving on DOJ-sponsored task forces are aware of the current Department policy that permits state and local officers on DOJ task forces to wear and activate BWCs.

Each component's BWC policy shall include:

- the responsibilities for Department agents to carry, operate, maintain, and secure the equipment, including when to activate and deactivate BWCs;
- the type(s) of BWC equipment authorized for use;
- the duration of time and scope of the BWC footage preserved prior to its activation (i.e., buffering period);
- specialized or sensitive investigative techniques or equipment that may require different treatment under the BWC policy;
- procedures governing the collection, storage, access, retention, use, and dissemination of BWC recordings, consistent with applicable federal laws;
- procedures governing the use of BWCs by all members of Department-sponsored task forces; and
- procedures for the expedited public release of recordings in cases involving serious bodily injury or death.

In addition, as soon as practicable, each component shall:

- submit for the approval of the Department's Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer a Privacy Impact Assessment of the component's planned use of BWCs and associated equipment prior to implementation of its BWC policy, and a plan for annual privacy reviews;
- consult with the Office of Records Management to ensure the component's BWC policy is fully compliant with all records-related laws, regulations, rules, policies, and guidance;
- work with the Justice Management Division to assess resource requirements to fully implement its BWC policy and build upon the resources allocated to the Department to support BWC usage in FY22; and
- design evaluation metrics that can be used to measure the impact of its BWC policy.

Finally, within 90 days, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys should develop training for prosecutors regarding the use of BWC recordings as evidence, building on existing trainings related to the discovery implications of these recordings.

I am proud of the job performed by the Department's law enforcement agents, and I am confident that these policies will continue to engender the trust and confidence of the American people in the work of the Department of Justice.