



REPORT ON PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING BODY-WORN CAMERAS

METRO TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT



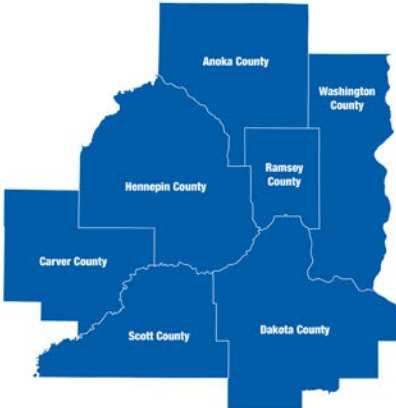
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FEBRUARY 2020

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Comment Overview

This report serves to summarize public comments received for the proposed Body-Worn Camera policy by the Metro Transit Police Department. The proposed policy was released for the purposes of public comment on December 11, 2019, and comments were accepted through January 30, 2020. During that time, the draft policy was available on the Metropolitan Council's website and through printed copies as requested.

The Council proactively promoted availability of the comment draft, including advertising it and the public hearing through social media and other means. An opportunity for in-person comment from members of the public was provided at the regularly-scheduled meeting of the Metropolitan Council on January 8, 2020. No member of the public made comment during this time.

The Metro Transit Police Department, via Met Council's Communications Department, received comment from eight people related to the policy, all via e-mail, and all in support of body-worn cameras for Transit police.

The table below summarizes the comments received; the contents of each comment are on the following pages.

Date	Format	Resident Last Name	Resident First Name	Support or Oppose
12/13/2019	email	Grinde	Ian	Support
12/13/2019	email	Zellers	Stephanie	Support
12/13/2019	email	Kaardal	Wade	Support
12/17/2019	email	Hruska	Joseph	Support
12/17/2019	email	McCollom	Chris	Support
12/17/2019	email	Yavner	Dan	Support
12/18/2019	email	Morrison	John	Support
12/31/2019	email	Ricciardi	Alexa	Support

Comments in their full text:

"I have only rarely used the light rail due to where I live, but I am vastly in favor of bodycams on the Transit Police, along with all Police if I am honest.

"It protects police from false allegations, and also acts like a built in constituent protection.

"If we have body camera, and there is a controversy, all we need to do is check the footage, and a bunch of drama can be saved.

"These days, if I hear 'The body cam was turned off', I, along with many people I know assume that an abuse of power occurred, regardless of what the police say.. Our 4th amendment rights as citizens are already getting eroded, so we may at least share the benefits of surveillance for once.

"If police want citizens to trust them, they need to show them that they are worthy of trust. What better way then to prove it with recorded proof? Actions speak louder than words, and police should be held to an elevated standard of conduct anyway.

"In summary, I think they are a solid idea, and will lead to increased trust in police."

--Ian Grinde

"Body cams would be a good idea. I live in Hopkins and very close to the future SWLR. I'm all for it, but something needs to be done about the crime and the non payers. There is not enough enforcement on the light rail."

--Joseph Hruska

"In interest of transparency and public safety, the MTPD police officers should be required to wear body cameras while on active duty. We give our police officers great powers and great responsibility, asking them to exercise the duties of their job under as much sunlight as possible is a must."

--Wade Kaardel

"100% they should have to wear body cams, at a minimum. I think training and codes of conduct on how to treat all people using the metro system with respect, yes that includes the homeless, is a bigger priority however."

--Chris McCollom

"I support the use of body cameras for the police, in order to properly protect and serve, we should have accountability in place."

--John Morrison

"I am in support of Metro Transit police wearing body cameras. I believe this will increase their accountability as they interact with the public."

--Alexa Ricciadri

"The policy, as much as I could plow through, is acceptable with this caveat: It is ok, so long as the video and audio are used to complement and not supersede officers' accounts and testimonies."

--Dan Yavner

"My name is Stephanie Zellers, I am a resident of St. Paul and I utilize Metro Transit services multiple times a week. I am writing in support of the proposal for Body Worn Cameras by Metro Transit Police. I believe such a policy will assist in protecting public safety as well as improving police-public relations and trust."

--Stephanie Zeller



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