

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: Monday, February 24, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 11, 2020

**Subject:** Body Worn Cameras: Public Comment Report & Policy Adoption

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minnesota Statute § 626.8473 (subd. 2)

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Leah Palmer, MTPD Project Manager, 612-349-7232

Sgt. Brooke Blakey, MTPD Executive Officer, 612-349-7200

**Division/Department:** Police

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Reviews and accepts the public comment report related to body-worn cameras;
2. Reviews and adopts the Council Policy on body-worn cameras.

### Background

Over the last decade, body worn cameras (BWCs) have gained popularity in law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve across the country. They are now recognized as a standard for police in order to increase trust between police and the communities they service, to reduce violent confrontations, and to provide another source of evidence for criminal prosecution.

The MTPD previously appeared in front of the Metropolitan Council on two occasions:

1. November 13, 2019, as an information item to introduce body-worn cameras;
2. December 11, 2019, with a request to open public comment as required by Minnesota Statute § 626.8473 (subd. 2).

### Rationale

Minnesota Statute requires the governing body (Metropolitan Council) to conduct a public comment period, which happened from December 11, 2019, through January 30, 2020.

In addition, the MTPD must gain Council's approval on the policy in order to move forward with the rest of the project and toward implementation. The MTPD has conducted extensive research into national best practices and model policies in order to develop its policy and procedures.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

BWCs dovetail with the Thrive MSP 2040 plan's three principles, as well as the Equity outcome:

- Integration: "The Metropolitan Council is committed to integrating its activities to pursue its outcomes, achieve greater efficiencies, and address problems that are too complex for singular approaches."
  - BWC footage can be shared with other Council departments such as the Office of General Counsel and Risk Management in order to coordinate legal and risk responses more effectively.

- BWCs allow the MTPD to cooperate more meaningfully with other metro-area police departments as well as prosecutors to improve criminal justice outcomes.
- Collaboration: “Collaboration recognizes that shared efforts advance our region most effectively toward shared outcomes.”
  - Provides additional accountability for police interactions with the public which can increase trust.
  - Provide an additional form of evidence to our criminal justice partners such as other law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the courts.
- Accountability: “For the Council, accountability includes a commitment to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of our policies and practices toward achieving shared outcomes and a willingness to adjust course to improve performance.”
  - Create a data-driven approach to policy analysis and training needs in order to better serve the public.
  - Respond to complaints against officers using video footage that may aid in the assessment of a police conduct.
- Equity: “Equity connects all residents to opportunity...[by] engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision making.”
  - The proposed public comment plan brings the MTPD’s policy out directly to the communities it serves by asking for input and hearing concerns in a multitude of formats.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

During the public comment period, MTPD received eight (8) emails in support of BWCs and zero opposing.