

Testimony before the Judiciary Committee
March 20, 2015
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IN OPPOSITION to SB 1109 AN ACT CONCERNING EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE.

Here are the issues with body cameras that we see:

1. It should be up to individual departments, not legislated. Departments should be using as they deem necessary, not with every police officer, but potentially in instances where there is a concern (i.e, an Internal Affairs Investigation or CHRO complaints against a particular officer). Not all police officers in any municipality should be required to pay the price because of the actions of a few.
2. This would be a change in working conditions and as such should be collectively bargained, not legislated.
3. There are privacy issues. The overwhelming majority of police interactions with the public go off without a hitch. Most of the public doesn't want to be filmed when the police are in their house; knowing that the inside of their house will be on YouTube someday because someone FOI'd the tape. If someone is making a report about their car being broken into, looking for advice on any of the numerous issues that the public calls the police about, including children, filing a missing person report, etc.; they are not going to want to be recorded. It's the person that the police is talking too who's face is on the camera, not the police.
4. People often come up to the police on the street to just chat or confidentially report information. If they know they will be recorded, that will seriously discourage people from talking to the police. I know I wouldn't go up and talk with someone knowing I'm being recorded. Add the FOI factor and how often police videos end up on the Internet? It's a serious issue.
5. This is a huge cost to purchase and significantly more to review and maintain. Monies that could be better spent on protection of law enforcement and increased public safety.

For more information: link to AP article posted on PoliceOne.com

<http://www.policeone.com/police-products/body-cameras/articles/8243271-For-police-body-cameras-big-costs-loom-in-storage/>

For these reasons, we urge rejection of mandatory body cameras for all police officers in any municipality.

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