

Chief D. Ackermann

From: Jon Cole
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Chief D. Ackermann
Cc: Kristine Morieko; Mary Barchetto; Rob Dill; Lenora Benjamin
Subject: Re: Body Camera Update

Thanks for the explanations

Jon Cole
Council Member



Borough of Glen Rock
1 Harding Plaza
Glen Rock, NJ 07452

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On Apr 14, 2021, at 4:48 PM, Chief D. Ackermann <dackermann@glenrockpolice.com> wrote:

Jon,

The law enforcement community generally supports body cameras. Experience has shown that body and dash-cam video footage has been beneficial to officers. While the issue of transparency and accountability are major components, the vast majority of the video footage has supported officers and protected them from false allegations. The biggest obstacle has been the cost which has been well beyond the financial resources of many small to mid-sized communities. The largest factor being the data storage issues.

The implementation of the body camera program, access to videos, privacy concerns, and storage requirements will be done in accordance with an updated directive to be issued by the Attorney General prior to June 1st, 2021 – in accordance with the legislation passed last November (P.L. 2020, Chapters 128 and 129). There is no local option to amend or differ from that directive.

With regard to cloud based storage, the data remains the property of the agency and the vendor has no access. For law enforcement purposes the vendor must provide cloud based storage consistent with the requirements that are part of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy – the national standard.

Consistent with Kristine's comments, the recordings will become police records, as such any Mayor, members of council and other Government Officials have the same access as that of any private citizen. A member of the governing body would technically have to file an OPRA request and be subject to the limitations provided by law and redaction requirements and privacy protections with regard to the citizens who appear in the videos.

The videos will however be subject to review in accordance with the AG's Internal Affairs Directive by our Professional Standards Unit, The Confidential Investigations Unit of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office and the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability of the NJ Attorney General's Office.

Once the AG issues his directive it will be publicly posted.

Best wishes,

Dean

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"Up-to-the-minute updates from city agencies by e-mail and cell phone: www.nixle.com"

From: Kristine Morieko <kmorieko@glenrocknj.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:59 PM
To: Jon Cole <jcole@glenrocknj.net>
Cc: Chief D. Ackermann <dackermann@glenrockpolice.com>; Mary Barchetto <mbarchetto@glenrocknj.net>; Rob Dill <rdill@glenrocknj.net>; Lenora Benjamin <lbenjamin@glenrocknj.net>
Subject: Re: Body Camera Update

We spoke to this in my NJLOM meeting yesterday - the implementation deadline is moving out. Giving us all time to adapt.

As to jon - a component of this would be discovery requests. Similar to MVR Footage, anyone can request it via OPRA. The league is looking to address opira overall and this would be included. I.e. you won't want to have abuse coupled with the fact that the BWC goes into private homes and property.

We won't be inventing the wheel - I know of a few towns currently using BWC. I can reach out for their experiences.

Sent from my iPhone
(iTypos, iApologize)

On Apr 14, 2021, at 3:41 PM, Jon Cole <jcole@glenrocknj.net> wrote:

Gang,

I presume that the implementation of body cameras is a method for protecting police as well as citizens.

In order to protect the integrity of the Glen Rock Police Department, it's important that data like body camera recordings is stored and maintained in an auditable system. For example, we wouldn't want to be confronted with missing or modified data should an event occur. Faith in the integrity of the data is fundamental to proper public perception. Data security is of paramount importance. My questions, thus, are protocol related.

Who will have access to the cloud-based storage system and under what circumstances?

If a cloud-based system is used, what backup procedures will be implemented to store data outside of that cloud-based environment?

The contract for storage should acknowledge that the files are the property of Glen Rock, NOT the vendor.

What will the protocol be should the Mayor, for example, have reasonable cause to have footage reviewed? Having NOTHING to do with the individuals serving now, it

wouldn't seem appropriate for any organization, police included, to be the sole organization capable of reviewing video that could theoretically contain evidence of misconduct by that organization.

Hopefully, these questions prove to ultimately be an exercise in caution, and no need ever arises. But I would feel delinquent if I didn't ask.

Jon Cole
Council Member

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On Apr 14, 2021, at 3:12 PM, Chief D. Ackermann
<dackermann@glenrockpolice.com> wrote:

Kristine and Mary,

I just want to update you on where we are with the State-Mandated Body Camera issue. Our grant application, which was reviewed by Anthony as well as Sunny from our Grant Company, was submitted to the state at the end of last week. The AG's Office has advised law enforcement executives not to expect a response until sometime after June 1st. Once I know how much money we are getting from the state I will be better able to inform you what the financial impact to the Borough will be in order to meet this state mandate.

Attached is the Interagency Working Group on Body Worn Cameras recommendations for the Governor's Office and the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 201 for your review.

Among the conclusions the working group came to are that cloud based storage of data is recommended and further, the Working Group could not identify any real advantages to the creation of countywide or a statewide system. And therefore, at this time, the Working Group does not affirmatively recommend implementing a countywide or statewide storage system. These recommendations are consistent with our local research and is therefore the direction I am looking towards. The vendor I have chosen is Axon, which is the industry leader, and seems to be the vendor that most Chiefs are looking towards.

As more information becomes available I will keep you posted.

Dean

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<BWC-Working-Group-Final-Report.pdf>