



# *APD NEWS*

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## **Austin Police Body Worn Camera (BWC) Policy Highlights**

1. Employees will test the BWC equipment at the commencement of their tour of duty. Employees will review the recording to verify the BWC microphone is operational, and the date and time is accurate.
2. All units responding to a scene shall activate their department issued BWC equipment when they: arrive on-scene to any call for service; or Have detained or arrested a person; or are attempting to detain or arrest a person; By the nature of the call for service, are likely to detain or arrest a person; Any consensual contact in which the officer believes activation of the BWC would be in the best interest of the department.
3. Examples of when the department issued BWC system must be activated include, but are not limited to: Traffic stops, Foot pursuits, until completion of enforcement action, DWI Investigations including field sobriety tests, Warrant service, Investigatory stops.
4. There may be instances in which an officer is required to take immediate action to an event that occurs directly in front of them which may not allow time to activate their BWC. In these circumstances, the officer shall activate their BWC as soon as practical that allows the officer to safely contain the situation.
5. Once the BWC system is activated it shall remain on until the incident has concluded.
  - (a) Conclusion of an incident has occurred when: All arrests have been made and arrestees have been transported; and No further law enforcement action is likely to occur (e.g., waiting for a tow truck or a family member to arrive).
6. If a citizen requests that an officer turn off their BWC, the officer will explain that APD Policy requires the camera to be activated and recording until the conclusion of the incident or until there is no further law enforcement action necessary
7. Sergeants will conduct random monthly inspections of their employees' BWC recordings to ensure they are complying with policy. These inspections will be electronically documented and sent to the lieutenant within the chain-of-command.
8. Employees shall not obtain, attempt to obtain, or convert for their personal use or for the unauthorized use of another person, any information obtained by a BWC system.
9. Employees shall not make personal copies or attempt to upload recordings to social networking sites (e.g., You-Tube, Facebook).

