

**Audits of Body Worn Camera Footage
Pursuant to City Code 2.10.200
September 2024**

SUMMARY

This memorandum constitutes a random audit, pursuant to City Code 2.10.200.E, of body worn camera recordings for the month of September 2024. The ordinance requires that any findings of material non-compliance with state law, City Code and Police Department policy to be referred to the Chief of Police, the Mayor, the Council Chair, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, and the City Attorney.

The system used by the Department, at the time this audit was conducted, cannot randomly generate a body worn camera (BWC) recording based on a particular timeframe. Because of that limitation, a random number generator was used to identify 5 case numbers (out of 5,794 case numbers) from the month. If a case number had multiple recordings for that case number, a recording was randomly selected for review.

Of the five matters that were reviewed, the audit found that officers appeared to materially comply with City Code, State law, and Department policies.

Body Worn Camera Reviews

Case No. 1

Summary

Subject Officer approached a male and female who were on the sidewalk and appeared to be working on a bicycle. The Subject Officer separated the male and female so that he can speak to them independently, starting with the male. The male stated that he crashed on his girlfriend's bike and is trying to fix it. Subject Officer informed the male that people called and complained about people yelling in the street. Male said he was yelling at the bike because he was having difficulty fixing it without his tools. Subject Officer had casual conversation with the male and showed empathy on male's situation with the bike. Two other officers, who appear to be lead officers, joined the Subject Officer and took over questioning the male.

Subject Officer approached the female, the male's girlfriend, and tried to confirm the male's story. The girlfriend said that the male, her boyfriend, was yelling at bike and she was yelling at him to quiet down.

One of the other officers came over to the Subject Officer and informed him that the girlfriend had a warrant for trespassing. The girlfriend said she forgot about the citation because she was homeless. The Subject Officer & other officer informed the girlfriend that they are not going to take her into custody but that she needed to take care of the citation at the municipal court. The lead officer told both the girlfriend and boyfriend that they need to keep the noise down because they may be called again from neighborhood complaints. Officers let the couple leave and the Subject Officer said her is turning off BWC.

Finding

Officers appeared to comply with State and City Codes and Police Department policy. Subject Officer asked questions for potential domestic violence and bike theft while still being respectful and patiently listening to both male & female.

Case No. 2

Summary

Subject Officer was walking to the Public Safety Building when he saw two females who were sitting outside, on benches in front of the police station. The females stated that they had their bags stolen. Subject Officer spoke to someone on the phone and decided to take the case.

One female told the Subject Officer that they went for a hike and put all their purses in the trunk of the car but when they returned from the hike, all their purses in the trunk were missing. Then a mother of one of the victims called her informing her that she received messages about unauthorized transactions from a credit card. A third female, who is the owner of the car from where the bags were stolen, joins the two females.

Subject Officer asks all three females about the situation they experienced for investigative purposes, while at the same time showing empathy for their situation. After receiving the required information, the Subject Officer explained the process for follow-up on both the theft case and the fraud case. The females left and the Subject Officer said “end of contact” and turned off BWC.

Finding

Subject Officer appeared to comply with State and City Codes and Police Department policy. Subject Officer was extremely patient and empathic towards the three victims.

Case No. 3

Summary

Subject Officer walked into a home, joining three other officers who were already in the home. A female social worker was speaking to a person in another room, which was not in the sight of the BWC. One of the officers whispered to the Subject Officer about a woman possibly being suicidal. The social worker came out of the room and informed the Subject Officer and the other officer that the person she was talking with does not want to be committed.

The Subject Officer stated he was muting for a private conversation and then muted the audio to talk with other officers and two social workers. Subject Officer unmuted the audio and joined the social workers in the backyard where they were speaking with a male.

The social worker informs the lead officer that there is not enough evidence to involuntarily commit the female, who is the wife of the male. The Subject Officer begins to problem solve with the husband on how to resolve the situation, while keeping safety in mind. The husband suggests the wife move to another of their homes in another city. The officers went back to speak with the wife, who is in a bedroom, lying on her side handcuffed on the bed. Subject Officer, possibly their supervisor, told the officers to take the handcuffs off the wife. The lead officer asked the wife if she'd be willing to go to the other house, but she instead indicated that she was willing to go to a hotel for a night.

Subject Officer explained to the wife that it was not a criminal case and her leaving for the night would be totally voluntary. The wife agreed to leave the house for the night. The lead officer informed the husband of the plan for his wife to leave for the night. The Subject Officer walked outside, said "end of contact" and turned off BWC.

Finding

All officers appeared to comply with State and City Codes and Police Department policy. The Subject Officer, who appeared to be a supervisor, worked well with the officers and the subject couple to find a safe solution to a complex situation. Subject Officer was empathetic and respectful with both the wife and the husband.

Case No. 4

Summary

Subject Officer and another officer walked into an apartment building and met up with two EMT personnel in an apartment. The male EMT informed the Subject Officer that a woman cut herself with scissors and does not want to be committed. Subject Officer informs EMT that the social workers are on the way and the officers will wait for them to arrive at the apartment.

A female (subject) was audibly crying and continually said that she does not want to go anywhere. Subject female was accompanied by several people who were comforting her. Social workers arrived and the Subject Officer updated them on the situation before entering the apartment.

The male social worker approached the subject female and began calming her down. The male social worker, with the support of the other persons, was able to convince the subject female that she needed to go to the ER. The EMT's, the assisting officer and the people supporting the subject accompanied her to the elevator and departed the scene.

Subject Officer and other officer left the building and Subject Officer said, "end contact" and turned off BWC.

Finding

All officers appeared to comply with State and City Codes and Police Department policy. The social workers did an exceptional job in de-escalating the situation, including eliciting the support of surrounding persons to assist in the subject female's voluntarily compliant to going to the hospital.

Case No. 5

Summary

Subject Officer was sitting in the patrol car while he talked with a female (complainant) on the phone.

The complainant said someone flattened her tires at work and someone told her to call the police. Complainant also stated that there were four other incidences of flattened tires in the same parking lot. Complainant informed the Subject Officer that cameras are present in the parking lot but management will not release the videos to her. Rather, management told the victims of these crimes to call the police, so that there can be a police report, and

then because the incidents occurred in the parking lot of a post office, the postal inspectors would pull the videos for further investigation.

The Subject Officer collected the information to make the report and then provided her with report number.

Subject Officer stated “end of contact” and turned off BWC.

Finding

Subject Officer appeared to comply with State and City Codes and Police Department policy.

CONCLUSION

Of the five cases that were reviewed, the audit found that police officers appeared to materially comply with City Code, State law, and Police Department policies.