

BYLAW OFFICER BODY WORN CAMERA PILOT PROJECT

FAQ

What is a Body Worn Camera?

Body Worn Cameras are recording devices designed to be worn on a law enforcement officer's uniform, which can include glasses or helmets, but in our case, will be attached to the shoulder of the Bylaw Officer's uniform. They provide an audio-visual record of events from an officer's point of view. The high resolution digital images allow for a clear view of individuals, and microphones will capture conversation.

Which staff at the City wears a body worn camera?

ONLY the City's Bylaw Officer wears a body worn camera, and only when working alone and in specific circumstances, described below.

Is the body worn camera on all the time?

For the duration of the pilot project, the camera will be operated by the Bylaw Officer while responding to any call for service and during all enforcement related encounters or activities while working alone. This primarily applies when the Officer attends a private residence or business alone or when they are required to apprehend an at-large animal. The camera will not be on continuously while the Bylaw Officer is on duty.

Why has the City chosen to implement this pilot project?

This step is being taken to ensure the safety of the City's Bylaw Officer, who sustained significant injuries in relation to the aforementioned incident. It also provides a way for the City to determine the accuracy of claims made against the Bylaw Officer, and as a means of holding Bylaw enforcement accountable for their actions as well as the public's.

In compliance with WorkSafe BC Subsection 4.20.2 which requires that employers eliminate hazards or reduce potential risks from hazards, the City's Human Resources policy requires that employees working alone are adequately protected. Video of incidents involving members of the public creates a public record of situations that have the potential to lead to City liability, and ensures a level of accountability on behalf of the public and the City with regards to Bylaw enforcement. The corrective action to employ a Body Worn Camera was accepted by WorkSafe BC as well as the City's Occupational Health and Safety committees as an appropriate response to ensure worker safety.

How long will the City be testing the use of this equipment?

The City will review the efficacy of the new equipment and corresponding policy after the first year of its trial implementation, and every six months following that.



How will the public know that the camera is recording?

Where practical, the Bylaw Officer will make efforts to inform the public if/when they are being recorded. However, if the Bylaw Officer is unable to make an announcement regarding recording, you can reasonably assume that if he/she is making a house call to your home or private business, or apprehending an at-large animal, the Body Worn Camera will be recording.



Who has access to footage, and when will they access it?

Only two designated supervisory staff at the City will have access to the footage. Footage will only be accessed in the case of an incident, or for training and review purposes. Random footage will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to assess the conduct of the Bylaw Officer.

If a member of the public wishes to access a recording of themselves, they can do so by following the procedures of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

How long will recordings be kept?

Recordings are done on an incident related basis. The nature of the incident recorded will determine how long the footage is stored. Once the footage is no longer needed for City business, it will be securely deleted.

Don't see your question here?

For more information, please contact the City of Prince Rupert at cityhall@princerupert.ca or call 250-624-6852. You can also write or visit us at 424 3rd Avenue West, Prince Rupert, BC, V8J 1L7.

