




# HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

## INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
<b>BOARD MEETING DATE:</b>	November 28, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Body-Worn Camera Update
<b>REPORT NUMBER:</b>	24-031b
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Frank Bergen, Chief of Police
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Since 2014, the Hamilton Police Service (HPS) has been reviewing the possibility of implementing body-worn camera (BWC) technology for its front-line patrol officers.
- In June 2024, the HPS received approval from the Hamilton Police Service Board (Board) to move forward with the acquisition of 500 BWCs from Axon, in addition to the hiring of necessary support to ensure the successful implementation and operation of the BWC program.
- In October 2024, the HPS received direction from the Board to ensure specific items were addressed in the implementation of the program. As a result, the HPS has moved forward to address concerns regarding privacy, robust policy, training, and proper deployment.

### INFORMATION

#### Background

Since 2014, the HPS has conducted a series of comprehensive examinations of BWC programs. This inquiry has delved into the efficacy, costs, and potential benefits of implementing such technology within the Service, reviewing the experience of policing agencies as well as the academic literature.

At the February 2024 Board meeting, the HPS was asked to provide an updated report on the impact of implementing a BWC program. A presentation was made to the Board at the April 2024 meeting, with the report being tabled and a request for options be considered. At the June 2024 meeting, the Board approved the acquisition of 500 BWC from Axon, as well as the hiring of identified support staff to ensure the successful implementation of the technology.

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At the October 2024 Board Meeting, the HPS was directed to ensure that implementation of the BWC program addressed concerns of privacy, policy and deployment.

### Information

In consideration of the Hamilton Police Services Board policy, guidelines from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario (IPC), and best practices identified from academic research and the experience of other policing agencies, the Hamilton Police Service has prepared for the 2025 deployment of body-worn cameras (BWC).

### Privacy

A Privacy Impact Assessment was conducted following the three step PIA development methodology, including:

**Information Gathering:** Review of documentation describing this project and its goals, and subsequent discussion with subject matter experts.

**Privacy Analysis:** The analysis was based on a number of sources including the privacy principles set out by the Canadian Standards Association, guidelines from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, other applicable legislation and regulations, Service policies, and privacy best practices.

**Document:** The information gathering and privacy analysis were documented in a PIA to inform the stakeholders and program areas of privacy risks which should be addressed as part of the initiative.

### Policy

The HPS policy has been written based on the policy from the Board, guidelines from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, and best practices identified in academic literature and the experience of other police agencies.

In the policy, specific sections are included to ensure members are aware of the times when BWCs must be activated or deactivated.

- BWCs must be activated during all investigative or enforcement actions.

To protect privacy, except in exigent circumstances BWCs will not be activated under the following circumstances:

- When attending medical facilities
- Inside a private residence
- When consent has not been granted by the owner/occupant

Additionally, the policy addresses auditing and analysis of BWCs, ensuring that an annual report is presented to the Board. The report will provide information based on the recommendations in the guidelines from the IPC, as well as the policy from the Board.

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## Deployment

Deployment of the BWCs will be structured based on industry best practices. Robust training will take place in-person to ensure members have proper understanding of the expectations for using the technology. Additionally, the training will highlight the interrelatedness of the technology with existing systems, including the In-Car Camera (ICC) system and Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS).

Hardware will be issued starting in the spring of 2025 to all uniform patrol members and additional identified units, where the need to capture interaction with the public is greatest. The BWCs will be individually issued to members of these units, ensuring accountability for its use and maintenance. This initial training and deployment is expected to be complete prior to fall of 2025.

## APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not applicable.

FB/S. Moore

- c: Ryan Diodati, Deputy Chief – Operations
- Paul Hamilton, Deputy Chief – Support
- Paul Evans, Superintendent – Business and Strategic Initiatives
- Duncan Robertson, Acting Director – Finance
- Doris Ciardullo, Director – Fleet, Facilities & Procurement
- Dawn Parnell, Manager – IT Services

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