



# Cobourg Police Service Community Consultation: Body-Worn Cameras – Survey Results

## 1.0 Introduction

This report summarizes the findings of a public survey of residents of Cobourg and surrounding area. Survey objectives were as follows:

To gain insight on public knowledge and public perceptions on body-worn cameras (BWC).

## 2.0 Background

Police services across Canada are considering the use of BWCs as a tool for accountability and public safety. A questionnaire was developed by Cobourg Police Service in consultation with the Cobourg Police Services Board to hear the community's opinions on the use of BWCs in terms of police accountability, community safety, and privacy. This survey will gauge the perceptions and beliefs of our community.

The results will be shared at the Cobourg Police Services Board meeting in August and reviewed further in September. With a clearer understanding of the public's opinion, the Cobourg Police Service and the Cobourg Police Services Board will direct further discussions and exploration of the benefits and limitations of the use of BWCs and the costs associated with BWCs in the fall of 2020.

## 3.0 Summary of findings

Generally, respondents indicated support for the use of BWCs (Q3). With over half of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that they feel safer when a police officer is wearing a BWC (Q10) and BWCs will enhance police transparency(Q8) and increase public trust, while protecting police against false accusations (Q4).

### 3. In general, do you support requiring police to wear body-worn cameras?

[More Details](#)



Just over 55% of respondents do not think BWCs are a violation of crime-victims' personal privacy, 67% percent of respondents do not feel that BWCs violate the personal privacy of any person in the viewing range, and 89% of respondents do not think BWCs violate the personal privacy of crime suspects.

Nearly 75% of respondents (74.65%) agree or strongly agree that all interactions with the public should be recorded with BWCs (Q5).

35% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed when asked about concerns surrounding cooperation from crime victims (Q11) and 26% neither agreed nor disagreed when asked if witnesses will worry about cooperating with police due to BWCs (Q12).

When asked to provide feedback about what a potential BWC policy should address (Q41 and Q42), respondents raised concerns about when cameras would be turned on and off, storage and the length of time recordings are kept, who would have access to recordings, cost of a BWC program. Verbatim responses to Q41 and Q42 can be found on page 12 to 16.

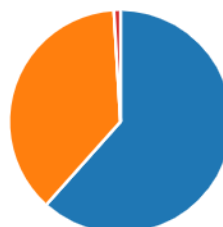
## 4.0 Respondent Profile

Total of **213** surveys submissions,

- 137 Cobourg resident or business owner
- 58 from Northumberland County (other than Cobourg)
- 9 respondents from outside of Northumberland County
- 9 Unknown (did not respond)

### Gender

Female	130
Male	79
Non-binary	0
Prefer to self-describe	2



Demographic	Respondents	
	#	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	130	61.03
Male	79	37.09
Non-Binary	0	0
Prefer to self describe	2	>1
Unknown (did not respond)	2	>1
<b>Age</b>		
17 or younger	1	>1
18-24	10	4.69
25-29	17	7.98
30-34	11	5.16
35-39	22	10.33
40-44	11	5.15
45-49	18	9.86
50-54	21	8.45
55 - 59	30	14.08
60-69	51	23.94
70 +	19	8.92
Unknown (did not respond)	2	>1



## Cobourg Police Service

# Body-Worn Camera Survey Results

### Questions

Responses **213**

Cobourg, Ontario	137
Northumberland County (othe...	58
Outside Northumberland Cou...	9



2. Before the introduction to this survey, had you heard about police wearing body-worn cameras in their daily interactions with citizens?

[More Details](#)

yes	200
no	9



3. In general, do you support requiring police to wear body-worn cameras?

[More Details](#)

yes	199
no	12



4. Body-worn cameras protect the police against false accusations.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	3
Disagree	4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	15
Agree	77
Strongly Agree	113



5. All police interactions with the public should be recorded with body-worn cameras.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	10
Disagree	21
Neither Agree nor Disagree	22
Agree	52
Strongly Agree	107



6. An interaction with the police is less likely to result in a confrontation if everybody knows the interaction is being recorded with a body-worn camera.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	6
Disagree	19
Neither Agree nor Disagree	44
Agree	77
Strongly Agree	67



7. Police should be required to notify individuals when they are being recorded on a body-worn camera.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	15
Disagree	40
Neither Agree nor Disagree	47
Agree	50
Strongly Agree	61



8. Police use of body-worn cameras enhances transparency in policing.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	4
Disagree	9
Neither Agree nor Disagree	16
Agree	72
Strongly Agree	111



9. A police officer should be allowed to view (not edit) video recorded on a body-worn camera prior to writing a report.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	24
Disagree	24
Neither Agree nor Disagree	33
Agree	90
Strongly Agree	42



10. I feel safer when a police officer is wearing a body-worn camera.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	11
Disagree	13
Neither Agree nor Disagree	54
Agree	62
Strongly Agree	73



11. Crime victims will worry about co-operating with police due to concerns that their statements are recorded.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	15
Disagree	73
Neither Agree nor Disagree	74
Agree	38
Strongly Agree	13



12. Witnesses will worry about co-operating with police due to concerns that their statements are recorded.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	18
Disagree	95
Neither Agree nor Disagree	57
Agree	35
Strongly Agree	7



13. Body-worn cameras violate the personal privacy of crime suspects.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	89
Disagree	86
Neither Agree nor Disagree	26
Agree	5
Strongly Agree	7



14. Body-worn cameras violate the personal privacy of crime victims.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	55
Disagree	96
Neither Agree nor Disagree	40
Agree	15
Strongly Agree	6



15. Body-worn cameras violate the personal privacy of any person within the viewing range of the camera.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	52
Disagree	91
Neither Agree nor Disagree	44
Agree	20
Strongly Agree	5



16. Citizens will worry about approaching officers to discuss suspicious activities in their neighbourhoods due to the recording of statements.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	31
Disagree	109
Neither Agree nor Disagree	43
Agree	24
Strongly Agree	6



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17. Citizens will have greater trust in the police because of body-worn cameras.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	11
Disagree	8
Neither Agree nor Disagree	31
Agree	100
Strongly Agree	62



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18. Body-worn cameras improve police relationships with citizens.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	9
Disagree	11
Neither Agree nor Disagree	51
Agree	88
Strongly Agree	53



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19. Body-worn cameras provide an accurate account of police/citizen interactions.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	6
Disagree	5
Neither Agree nor Disagree	21
Agree	87
Strongly Agree	93



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20. Body-worn cameras improve evidence gathering in criminal incidents.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	4
Disagree	4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	15
Agree	89
Strongly Agree	99



21. Body-worn cameras will reduce false complaints of police misconduct.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	6
Disagree	4
Neither Agree nor Disagree	24
Agree	83
Strongly Agree	95



22. Body-worn cameras will reduce the use of unnecessary or excessive use of force by police.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	9
Disagree	17
Neither Agree nor Disagree	45
Agree	74
Strongly Agree	65



23. Police should always have the body-worn camera on when interacting with a citizen.

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree	10
Disagree	33
Neither Agree nor Disagree	32
Agree	56
Strongly Agree	81



24. Police should comply with the requests of all citizens to turn off body-worn cameras.

[More Details](#)

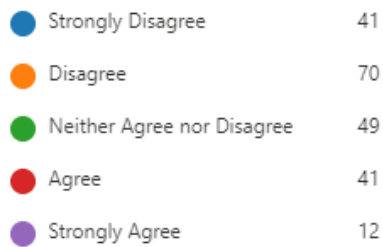
Strongly Disagree	64
Disagree	85
Neither Agree nor Disagree	39
Agree	14
Strongly Agree	11





25. Police should comply with victim/witness requests to turn off body-worn cameras.

[More Details](#)



Please identify if you believe body-worn cameras should be used in the following scenarios.

26. Police assisting with medical emergencies.

[More Details](#)



27. Traffic stops of drivers on streets and highways.

[More Details](#)



28. Stopping people in public places.

[More Details](#)



29. Routine surveillance of known crime areas.

[More Details](#)



### 30. Monitoring crowds and demonstrations.

[More Details](#)



### 31. Responding to calls for service at a person's home.

[More Details](#)



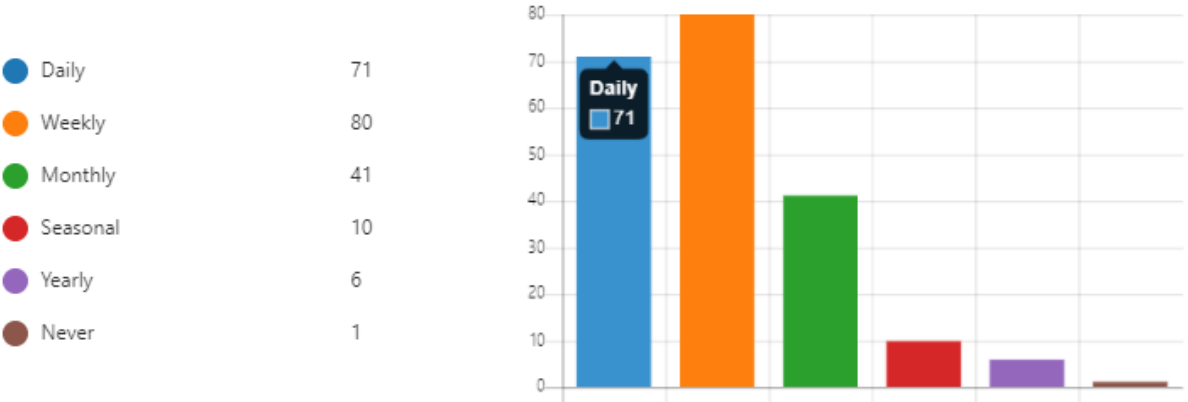
### 32. Transporting arrested persons to secure locations.

[More Details](#)



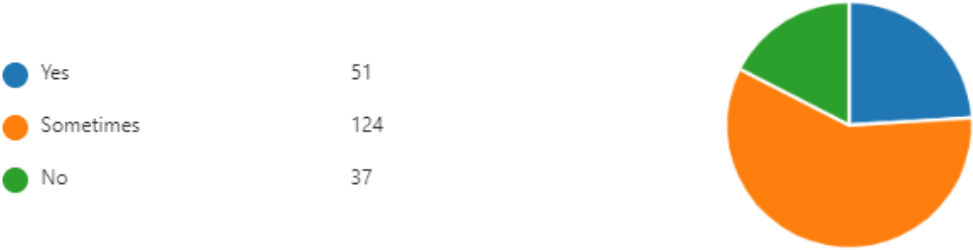
33. How often have you heard or read from radio, television, newspapers and the internet) about police misconduct (such as brutality, abusive language and corruption)?

[More Details](#)



34. Do you believe the negative news of the police reported by the media?

[More Details](#)



35. Have you had any contact with a member of the Cobourg Police Service in the last year? If yes, what was the nature of the contact?

[More Details](#)

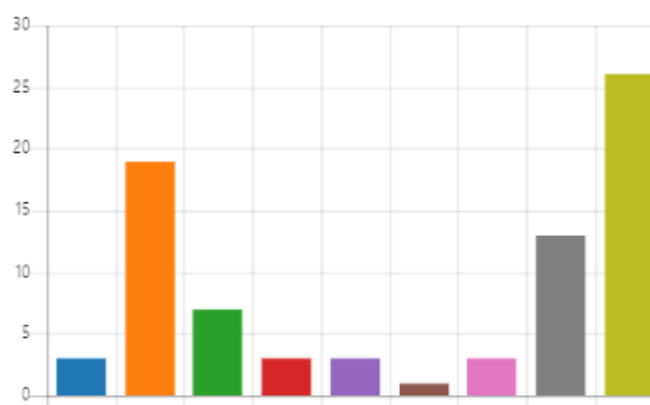
yes	78
no	132



36. What was the nature of the contact?

[More Details](#)

Victim of crime	3
Reported a problem	19
Witness to a crime/incident	7
Involved in a traffic collision	3
Issued a traffic citation	3
Arrested	1
Pedestrian Stop	3
Attending a community event	13
Other	26



36. What was the nature of the contact? (answers verbatim)

Answer selected - OTHER

Seeking advice  
 Completing a volunteer application  
 To do a security check of my home  
 Casual community encounters.  
 Casual walk, passing by officers  
 Asked for directions.  
 Shop with a Cop program And Cobourg Police attended my daughter's birthday parade!  
 Reporting a dog attack  
 Breakfast Club visits  
 Getting a vulnerable persons check On the beach prior to its closing  
 I work in the court house and pre COVID saw/interacted with a lot of them on a daily basis\  
 Interacting with senior officer  
 I am a first responder  
 Many calls about a toxic relationship. Body cams could have helped the situation sooner.  
 helping a person with a medical emergency while in front of Town Hall  
 Friendly conversations.  
 Communication with officer when calling 911 for relative is distress

## Cobourg Police Service interactions with Cobourg Residents

- Of the 78 respondents that indicated that they had contact with a member of the Cobourg Police Service in the last year, **59 identified as Cobourg residents or business owners**
- Of the 59 Cobourg residents or business owners, 54 were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the professionalism of the Cobourg Police Service member during the interaction
- Of the 59 Cobourg residents or business owners, 51 were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the overall interaction

37. How satisfied were you with the overall demeanour of the Cobourg police officer(s)?

[More Details](#)

Very satisfied	45
Somewhat satisfied	24
Somewhat dissatisfied	6
Very dissatisfied	2



38. How satisfied were you with the professionalism displayed by the officer(s)?

[More Details](#)

Very satisfied	44
Somewhat satisfied	28
Somewhat dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	1



39. How satisfied were you with the overall interaction?

[More Details](#)

Very satisfied	45
Somewhat satisfied	24
Somewhat dissatisfied	8
Very dissatisfied	1



40. Do you think body-worn cameras will have an influence on an officer's behaviour or communication style?

[More Details](#)



## 41. Are there questions community advocates should ask the Cobourg Police Service during the development of a policy on body-worn cameras? (answers verbatim)

What is done with the recordings, how are they stored and for how long?

This question concludes that the wearing of body cameras is a done deal. How long will video be retained? Can the civilian inwill the video have access to video within 24 to 48 hrs.?

I have never had a problem with the police but I am white middle class. I am really concerned that there be transparency in police engagement with the public for those that are not white. I firmly believe that racism exists: it can be subtle or obvious but until this is stamped out we need to be vigilant.

Do not BOW to the Criminals or the Left extremists. The Police are NOT the problem - the Criminals are.

I believe police body cameras should only be used/turned on at the request of the interactee. Why is this not a question on this survey

Costs of the cameras, who will retrieve the evidence from the cameras for court when necessary.  
How do they feel about wearing cameras? Will they feel safer wearing them?

Can the officers just turn cameras off or delete any video taken?

No, if a person is in pubic they're automatically forfeiting their right to privacy and therefore the public doesn't need to have a say in the policies for these cameras.

How will recordings be securely stored and for how long?

Is there any research to indicate that body cameras actually improve police behaviour? A study conducted in March of 2019 titled "research on body-worn cameras what we know, what we need to know" indicates they don't.

Can the cameras be knocked or ripped off, during an altercation.  
Only to ensure the protection of the personal privacy/information as it relates to crime victims or witnesses.

It concerns me a little that members of the public are being as for input since most members of the public, from my experience, know very little about the training, internal workings and day to day activities of the police force. Police services are professional organizations just as medical services or education services are professional services. In any organization there can be problem employees - which can be dealt with internally and trans-

parently. The question I would ask is how much acknowledgement is the police service given? The media has done a very poor job at providing unbiased information. If anything, the media should be the target for transparency. I have a great deal of trust in the professionalism of all our law enforcement services and they receive very little credit. I think it is more important to know how the police officers feel about wearing body-worn cameras. They are in the trenches and if they feel this would be a positive addition to getting their job done then it would be great.

Is there a more effective way to spend our tax payer dollars to better improve community safety and satisfaction than investing more in police?

Ask them to please continue the great job that they do on a daily basis! Ask them to please understand that there are people like myself that respect police officers despite the actions of the few. Stop protecting bad officers!

can citizens request access to footage via FOI, similar to officer's notes? - How long would CPS keep the footage (record retentions schedule)? - How will CPS store footage, on premise? Cloud servers? - will citizens/victims be able to revoke consent after being recording? If so, what happens to the recording e.g., can't destroyed, archived as do not use

What are the specific goals you are trying to reach with body-worn cameras? eg. Reducing complaints of police misconduct, evidence gathering, improved relations between the community and police? Show peer-reviewed evidence that body-worn camera will do this, as to my knowledge, they do no effect any of these factors.

Will there be specific training given to all police wearing the body cam so as to ensure that the police person in question with the body cam can judge when to not record the witness's face for their own safety in the future.

Is the use of body-worn cameras being informed by research? If so, what research and/or what researchers have been consulted? What else is the Cobourg Police Service doing to increase the accountability and performance of its officers? What services are not receiving funds so that the Cobourg Police Service can be equipped with body-worn cameras (which may or may not even be informed by science)?

With today's world not sure why any police department would have any issue with wearing the cameras.

how are individuals that have been diagnosed with a mental health conditions going to be treated? What happens if said individual believes that this is a way that higher authorities are attacking them or planning to hurt them? - how are children/youth going to respond to being video recorded? Will this lead to a sense of pride in being video recorded and caught on camera, thus possibly leading to negative societal fads? - how are elderly people going to feel about the change in policing measures? Is this going to seem like new policing efforts are becoming lazy? For instance, if we allow police officers to view the recording prior to writing paperwork, how does this offer the victim or offender the same opportunity? Will the police officer get an advantage due to this? Why was paper work completed in the past without such measures, but now we feel the need to change such documentation protocols?

how will you ensure that the footage recorded is unhampered with and not accessible to the officers before writing their report?

If recordings are being used for testimony, criminal charges, etc...does the person proving the info, or alleged criminal have access to view the recording?

Will the police have the ability to turn the camera off?

Will they be turned off for civilians who want to report to an officer in duty.

When and wear should police turn cameras off. Non-violent intervention techniques.

Cameras should be off during discussions with victims of a crime. Especially victims of sexual assault/ domestic assaults / children being victims. More concern and empathy for the victims. Cameras should be secondary.

If the officer has the ability to turn off the camera. If officers will have been adequately trained on their rights and others rights with respect to recordings.

When should officers be permitted to turn them off?

I can't think of anything right now.

Why does the Police services think Cobourg needs body cameras?

Why would police be against cameras?

What type of information security protocols will be put in place to limit/restrict access? Who/what governing bodies will have access to the video footage? How long will the footage remain on file?

Has there been many credible complaints from the public about police misconduct in Cobourg?

How can people be assured the footage will Not be edited in anyway. Still that will be a concern. How is that being addressed?

We are concerned about potential reluctance of victims of domestic violence to speak out with BWC. Transparency and Community trust, I believe cameras will help address both of those topics. They should be utilized to help clarify exactly what happened with the interactions between police and the public. And as a result will protect officers against false claims and will protect the public against abuses of power.

The legal issues associated with request's to turn off the camera's at a citizens request.  
Does Cobourg have the need today?

If, When and How will the videos be made public? and If they are will videos be edited (identities of victims/minors be protected?)

Who would have access to the images and how often (length of time) the video is stored for.  
Same as above and how long should footage be stored. Edited sections would have longer storage due to connections with ongoing legal actions. It should be clear that all officers would wear the camera and it's a given that every contact is recorded. Medical calls where patient must retain dignity and illegal acts are not expected/foreseen. Should recording continue in vehicles - recording comments between officers? While on duty always professions whether with the public or with each other ?

Short term and long term costs of the program.

Can an officer turn off camera when they don't want to be recorded?

How will police educate the public that body cameras are necessary to public and community safety?  
Whether or not it is proper or ethical to turn off the body cams at the victim/witnesses request. This could pose problems still.

Is the cost balanced out by current complaint resolution

Are there going to be specific guidelines in place to protect the privacy of the public?  
Will the officers have a chance to edit footage



Aucune réponse

When will you implement the proposal

What level of control officers have over BWC being switched off

do they feel comfortable recording day to day incidents? Do they feel that their security is compromised? Do they feel that they have to force themselves to put on best behavior?

Why only community advocates? Why not the general public as well?

How will officers be trained in the use of body worn cameras? How and when will officers upload the data from the body worn cameras and What processes will be in place to ensure Integrity and security of the recordings on the cameras? Will police be able to access recordings before data is uploaded?

In which situations or circumstances would a body-worn camera be of practical and beneficial use?

Will the policy be a public document so community members are aware of procedures around interactions with the police officers. How will community privacy issues be addressed in the policy

Civilian oversight and accountability Financial costs and savings

## **42. Are there specific questions you believe the Cobourg Police Service's body-worn camera policy should address? (answers verbatim)**

Length of storage time for data.

Use in court. Consequences of having camera off when it should be on.

How to provide public right to access to view /see video. Length of time to hold/store and allow access.

Sensitive issues such as rape needs to be managed. Possibly with audio only

I only see them being worn to stop the BS about the police, and showing how the public treat the police!

How often are videos reviewed? How long will videos be kept? Will officers be able to turn cameras off?

There should be no ability by police to turn the camera

Is it necessary to wear them all the time? Only when expecting trouble?or in troubled areas.

How police officers interact with racialized & marginalized members of the community. How officers interact in highly emotional & physical situations

The citizen should be able to view the recording that involves them as and when needed

It really needs to be stressed to everyone that these videos will remain private for witnesses and bystanders not involved. People will be afraid to come forward if they think these videos may become public. If I'm Not doing anything wrong I'd have nothing to worry about. But fear of retribution from The criminal will make a witness nervous.

There should not be a decision to use body cameras based on costs.

Are there places where police cannot use their body worn cameras? What if someone does not want to be

recorded?

The manner and by whom footage will be viewed, archiving procedures. Procedures for receiving consent from witnesses and victim statements. There needs to be specific guidelines to when cameras will be activated. Will they be active the entire time the officer is in duty or during specific calls depending on the situation.

Non-discrimination policy regarding treatment of minority groups Who can view recordings, how long are they stored for, where are they stored, when can they be released publicly and on what grounds

**If there is any additional feedback or comments you would like to make about body-worn cameras and their use by members of the Cobourg Police Service, please enter them here: (answers verbatim)**

*Some comments have been redacted because personal information in the text may identify the victim of a crime.*

I think body worn cameras will protect police against fraudulent claims and will also protect citizens should the police act irresponsibly.

This is Cobourg not Portland, Chicago or Seattle. I have seen no evidence that our Police cannot be trusted.

It's time to support our Police not defund them as the Anarchists would like.

Honestly I don't believe police in Cobourg should be required to wear body cams. Not enough happens in Cobourg for them to wear one, I don't want to be recorded and Cobourg is so small everyone knows everyone anyways.

Using positive and negative worded statements has created a biased survey that will bring into question the quality of the responses and an accurate reflection of what people really believe. The use of such language is leading. You are asking questions that require some knowledge of police procedures that the average citizen will not have. As I result I felt I could not answer some questions or choose to neither agree or disagree.

People think that body cameras are the magic bullet that will solve all problems that occur during police interactions. Infact what needs to occur is need for respect in both police and the community for the police. The Community needs to understand that when you being arrested to comply with the officer's commands. The time to DISCUSS us back at the station. The time to ARGUE is in court.. Unfortunately Society has created this environment that supports and encourages that one argues and fights police on all fronts

we all need to fight oppression together. Everyone should be treated with dignity and with the same standards.

This is a no brainer. Police should have these. Don't let the noisy few drag this out.

I believe it is an excellent idea for the police to wear the cameras, for them as well as the public, far too much hate for the police force in other areas right now, we need to support our force.

No

I believe body-worn cameras are a great tool for the police department. It has a positive outcome for various reasons. As a citizen, I have no issues in being recorded in my interactions with police. This gives an actual

account of the interaction as fact, and not just my personal take on the interaction. Both parties could either have a misleading interpretation and with it being recorded, there is no he said/she said misguided dialogue. I also believe it is a fantastic tool for the court system to use. Not all eye witness testimony is accurate and some important details can be missed. With a recording it shows exactly what happened, what was said and the final outcome without any questions as to who is right or wrong.

Body cameras protect both sides in any incident involved. They should be mandatory and should always be on. This will protect both the police themselves and civilians. It will prevent a lot of "he said she said" as the truth will always be recorded.

I believe officers should wear them as it is for their safety and ours. My concern is that the officer would have the ability to turn off the camera which I don't think should be allowed. If the camera is on at all times then there can not be any kind of discrimination of any kind.

I think that body worn cameras is a wonderful idea not only to protect the public but importantly to protect the police officers as well, it reduces the chance of a "he/they said she/they said" situation when there is actual footage of the situation in question.

It is unfortunate that we are considering this in our small town. I do think, however, that it will improve behaviour and accountability of both the public and the police.

Please lower your budget, quit your jobs, and do something productive with your time and lives.

I think it is important for the safety of the citizens and the officers. Many times I hear of incidents where the officer takes advantage of that badge and treats people with aggressive force or even kill a human. Sometimes they act unprofessional and act like they themselves are above the law because they are a police officer. Sad but it happens

I feel body worn cameras are the best way to protect police against false accusations of misconduct or brutality. They show the whole story, not the 2 min cellphone video that the criminals and media prefer to show. I think people will think twice before they act inappropriately knowing everything is on camera.

I think it will be a great tool for both the police and the public, unfortunately human beings interpret information much differently, that includes viewing it. The police officer who states clearly his requests, intent and possible consequences', who remains calm with well controlled voice and body language will be best served by the camera.

Thank you for sending out this survey. I have no additional feedback or comments at this time.

I think they are a great "tool" for all involved. They can ensure accurate reporting by police (busy days and stress can lead to skewed memory by the time reports are done). They protect the officers from false accusations. They protect the public in the off chance and officer has acted inappropriately. They are visible to the public so not hidden surveillance. Overall, I think it is a great tool to try out in Cobourg.

Cobourg Police Services is a fine group, but is part of a larger system that I take issue with. CPS is taking steps to work with mental health agencies and social workers that are incredible to see. Overall, body worn cameras will not be enough to fix the larger issues many have with police services and better the relationship between the community and the police. It will only increase taxes and have no effect on the goals (whatever they may be) that the cameras were meant to address

In this day & age... I strongly believe every police person should have a body cam in order to protect themselves and the public in case of contradicting opinions in any interactions between police & John Q Public. It would restore public order quickly and save unnecessary media focus and the tax payers money and the stress on the police person under scrutiny.

I view it as a distraction to the accountability of police. The research is mixed and at this point does not support the use of body-worn cameras (e.g., see Lum, C., Stoltz, M., Koper, C., & Scherer, J. (2019). Research on body-worn cameras: What we know, what we need to know. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 18(1), 93–118. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12412>). The Cobourg Police Service would be spending an exorbitant amount of money on technology that hasn't even been proven to be helpful. They should be putting the money and effort towards creating solutions that better meet the call for safety. Allocating funds for body-worn cameras is not the answer.

Cameras will protect both citizens - primarily use; and honest police officers.

I think body worn cameras would be a great asset to the police department

I think body cameras are a great resource to protect the police office from false accusations and the protect civilians against police abusiveness.

It's a progressive step by considering body worn cameras and that you for allowing community input.

Recommended as their vehicles are equipped with cameras anyways .. might as well be up close and personal like they get.

I fully trust our police service and appreciate the work they do. Body-worn cameras will only enhance evidence in a case. My concern would be for police to not feel as though they are constantly being surveilled but rather just to be used as evidence in court or to protect them against any allegations.

At a time when it seems police bashing is at it's highest due to things happening in the usa mostly, I do wonder if it's a good idea locally to technically protect the police officers. I myself trust police, but I have never broken the law (except speeding) or been rude or any of those things that might tick off an officer. I don't think our police are abusive and possibly this is not necessary. I commend you all for your jobs at a time that must be difficult with only bad policing feedback to hear and read online.

The cameras could be a potential first step in improving relationships with vulnerable or marginalized demographics as there is an assumed accountability. However, there needs to be more of a shift in culture and government policy in order to see change that best protects citizens and officers.

Helps show the truth of an incident and good evidence for court or the media.

I believe body cameras should be used in situations where there is a crime or the officer believed there to be a reason to stop a person and confront them regarding some sort of violation. For example: yes to traffic stops, no to monitoring the waterfront festival. UNLESS there is an altercation at the festival, then they should be turned on when approaching the situation. The cameras give evidence of what happened instead of a "my word against yours" situation. It is unfair to have someone's word as the only evidence.

Keep up the good work

No

I am concerned about how the perception of the police has changed, fueled mostly by incidents in the US. Anything to bring back trust (especially in younger people) is a positive. I fully support our local police and feel they do an outstanding job protecting this community.

Police should wear and have them recording at all times during shift

I think it's a political solution for a non existent problem imported to Cobourg from other jurisdictions such as Toronto or the US.

August 17, 2020

Community based policing is critical not only to the safety of our community but also develops trust and better relationships with our police departments, I believe that total transparency will encourage both

Sooner rather than later, the technology exists lets put it to work for the citizens.

ALL police should be wearing cameras at ALL times, and have no option to shut them off.

I think they are overall positive as they protect both police and the public. I would be cautious as to the access police have to modify the footage/ turn the cameras off. I believe the cameras should foster transparency and therefore the footage a usage should be protected against corruption/ modification both internally in the police force and from external sources.

This is an additional tool to help protect police.

Body worn cameras add to police transparency in dealings with the public

No Answer

Body worn cameras will protect both the police and the public to get the true story.

none

I hope we don't need them. Resources are scarce.

I think it is a great idea for the protection of both parties

I believe this is as much about police protection as it is public protection.

It will protect both the public and the police officer. There are bad police officers but I think there are more officers accused of wrong doings that aren't real.

It would be beneficial to all. True video could speed up cases in court with original evidence/interactions/ victim testimony. Making the court system more efficient and make the system far more transparent with benefit to officers of the police service and increase trust with the community. The news from outside drifts into our community. This will alleviate doubt for the benefit of all.

Cameras should remain on for entire shift, except for documented washroom break(s).

Some questions force a yes or no response but the answer may fall somewhere in between. For example, question 14. I believe most police officers are skilled at communicating in an appropriate way with the public (victim, criminals or members of the public) and their communication style changes based on the circumstances presented to them. For these officers, the vast majority, their day to day conduct would not change as they are sensitive to the influence and power they have and can be counted on to use it appropriately without the use of a body camera. For a few officers, the presence of a camera may in fact deter inappropriate interactions with the public. For a very small percentage, the presence of a camera would document inappropriate behaviour and, as should be the case, those officers would face logical consequences as their actions would be documented. Although in favour of body cameras as one strategy to protect the public's rights, they are also essential in protecting officers' rights. Although even video can present a skewed version of events, it is likely to present the most reliable of interpretations.

After doing this survey, I see that I need more information regarding BWC's. I would also like to hear how police view them as well. I think that this is a project that requires us all to work together to determine what will really help both police and the people they engage.

We do not need these for Cobourg police officers.

Body cameras are not the issue, who will wear them is, related to duties.

A year and a half ago I reported a domestic assault. The reporting officer did not go to get a statement from my one witness. The body cam would hold the officer accountable to follow procedures/protocol.

I think it would serve the purpose of keeping the wrong kind of person from becoming a police officer if their behavior was monitored like that.

Town needs better oversight of police activities, it's organizational structure and budget.

I really do think this is a great idea for the community to take a stand and show they are as progressive as they say

Body camera will help with showing the state of our town with criminal activity and will help to show that officers do their best. Courts need this to change their mind on catch and release. It's sickening in this town for that I believe they should have been in use years ago for officer and community protection! People lie cameras don't! Only concern is video being edited and deleted before court something needs to be put in place so officers aren't able to have access to tamper. Video footage should be able to be accessed by public under freedom of information and no expectation of privacy in public to keep police accountable to all

If a person has nothing to hide from the Police, then they should not worry about being recorded by a body worn camera.

I don't think voting to wear them should suggest that I am suggesting that our police need monitoring, I believe it's for everyone's interest.

If they are being worn to help the police, then I say fine! But if it's because the public mistrusts police I say no!!! Let the police do their jobs... and the public show more respect!!!

I feel that these cameras should have been implemented long ago. To protect both citizens and officers.

Buy them...a) it covers the officers "backside" and helps with further investigations.

I would like to say that not all police are the same. It's not cookie cutter people they all react in different ways with different competency.

[REDACTED]

Make sure they are in use around town.

Please be sure to carefully review feedback from racialized and marginalized respondents. As a white middle-aged woman I am likely to have a very different experience of the police than someone who is BIPOC or marginalized due to socio-economics, mental health issues, etc.

I think it's a great idea especially when there are altercations with criminals or citizens and it becomes a matter of he said she said

I'm tired of all the videos taken by bystanders being all over social media and tv. The cameras would help keep



our officers safe and the community safe as well. If you aren't doing anything wrong why would you object to the video. Keep the officers safe while they keep the community safe. A camera in the police vehicle as well

I believe in the use of body- worn cameras. I think more eyes on the scene the better. In the present world environment police are being accused of violence they are not committing and phone camera video is being edited. I think body- worn cameras are a great defence. I do believe it may change police behaviour slightly, like it would anyone knowing they were constantly being video taped. However, I have faith in my police that they perform their duties with the highest integrity so I believe they will continue with their duties as usual.

Every on-duty, working member of Police Services should have a body camera. It should be worn when patrolling, when interacting with public as a patrolling officer. It should not be able to be turned off while on duty.

Turning it off or not charging it, etc. should be illegal.

Interactions with police: Victim of crime Reported a problem Arrested Being a victim of police misconduct I feel had the officers been wearing body worn cameras it would of helped me out in the long run the officer lied about the incident and had his partner back him up had they of been wearing

Your survey only briefly touches on what I believe is the most important outcome of bwc and that is getting officers to stop lying. Every time I interact with the police I'm lied to. Whether it's 'we can't do that' 'you must provide id' 'you can't be here' etc. All the time, every time. Bwc should put a stop to this unhonorable practice. I believe in transparency, complete footage from BWCs should be made available to investigative agencies such as SIU

Interactions with police: Victim of crime Reported a problem Witness to crime/incident I believe that the cameras would protect the police officers as well as the community.

Cobourg Police are not especially in need of Body Worn Cameras but it's a good proactive measure.

The use of body worn cameras is commonly used in many large police services. With witnesses recording incidents, it is important for interactions to be recorded to ensure that full disclosure of situations. It offers protection to both officers against false accusations and protects citizens. Police brutality has been at the forefront and accountability is needed.

In regards to the body worn cameras,

I also feel the body cameras will also help protect officers as well for example in a case of an assault on an officer someone may think twice knowing the officer is wearing a body camera.

**END**