



April 24, 2024

To: Ms. Jennifer Wooldridge
Illinois Law Enforcement Testing and
Standards Board

Cc: Illinois General Assembly Office of Illinois Governor J. Pritzker

From: Kevin Zelk
Deputy Chief of Administration
City of Lake Forest
255 W Deerpath
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Re: 2024 Body Worn Camera Report

Ms. Wooldridge,

Pursuant to the Body Worn Camera Act (50 ILCS 706/10-25), the Lake Forest Police Department is providing to following information regarding our Body Worn Camera (BWC) program.

- The Lake Forest Police Department, when fully staffed, has 40 sworn personnel. As of this writing, we have 29 Officers, 3 Sergeants, 4 Commanders, 2 Deputy Chiefs, and 1 Chief of Police. Each sworn employee, is assigned their own Body Worn Camera (BWC). The BWC program was established at our department in 2023.
- Our agency is equipped with Axon Body 3 Body Worn Cameras. In our current inventory we have 41 BWC devices. Of these devices, 39 are currently in use. We currently have a one-officer staffing shortage, and one device is used as a “spare.”
- Over the last year we had two technical issues with a 4 of our BWC devices.
 - a. Three officers reported their BWCs would randomly stop recording for a brief amount of time (5-10 seconds) and then restart recording without the officer touching the device.
 - i. This issue was forwarded to the BWC program administrator and the recorded footage was reviewed to verify the problem had occurred as the



officers described. After confirming the random occurrence, Axon support was contacted. Support advised they were unsure why the devices would randomly stop and offered no advise other than to call if the problem persisted. As time went on, the effected officers no longer reported this problem happening. This problem either self-corrected or was fixed with a software update unknown to the program administrator.

- b. One officer advised their BWC was no longer holding a charge.
 - i. This issue was forwarded to the BWC program administrator who performed a physical inspection of the device. No obvious damage was observed and an independent charge was attempted. After 24-hours of charging, the device would not power on. Axon support was contacted, and the RMA process was initiated. The effected device was sent to Axon who confirmed the battery issue. A new replacement device was sent. Axon support was unable to recover any previously recorded BWC footage on the broken device.
- Throughout the year, supervisors access and review officer recorded BWC footage for performance assessments, compliance checks, as well as random checks and to investigate misconduct complaints. During these inspections supervisors check to make sure officers are operating their BWCs in accordance with the Body Worn Camera Act. Additionally, supervisors are reviewing if officers are properly documenting BWC use in police reports.
 - The Lake Forest Police Department has established a policy (Policy 423) regarding the use of Portable Audio/Video Recorders. Additionally, our agency has seen a dramatic increase in the number of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests related to BWC footage. Each of these requests are carefully evaluated under the Body Worn Camera Act and current FOIA law.

Please let our agency know if you have any questions or require any further information.

Respectfully,



Deputy Chief Kevin Zelk

