

Video Release Ordinance

March 28, 2025

Agenda

Video Release Ordinance

Minister Eric Blount

Coalition for Police Transparency and Accountability

Body Worn Camera Policy

Julie Hurwitz

Coalition for Police Transparency and Accountability

Strategy

Trever Walters

Detroit Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression

Examples of Video Release Demands



- Sherman Butler, July 12, 2024
- Lexis Zeidan, May 19, 2024
- Porter Burke, October 2, 2022
- Nakia Wallace, July 10, 2020
- Hakim Littleton, July 10, 2020
- Sheldy Smith, August 1, 2018
- Mark Gaddis, July 21, 2017

Example of Transparency

Chicago's Video Release Case Portal

<https://www.chicagocopa.org/data-cases/case-portal/>

The screenshot shows the Chicago COPA Case Portal website. At the top left is the COPA logo, and at the top right is a search bar. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for About, Complaints, Investigations, Community Outreach, PRAD, Data & Cases, News & Publications, FAQs, Contact, and Careers. A large blue banner with the text "CASE PORTAL" is centered below the navigation. The main content area is a light blue box containing three paragraphs of text. The first paragraph explains that COPA produces a detailed Final Summary Report (FSR) for all investigations that result in findings. The second paragraph states that the portal also contains materials COPA releases pursuant to the City's Video Release Policy (VRP). The third paragraph mentions that COPA redacts certain video, audio, and reports, including the FSR, pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act's personal information exemption. Below the text is a link to the FAQ section. At the bottom of the page, there is a table with a search bar on the left and a table header with columns for Log#, Incident Date & Time, District of Occurrence, COPA Notification Date, Transparency Release Date, Closed Date, and FSR/Memo Posted Date.

COPA produces a detailed Final Summary Report ("FSR") for all investigations that result in findings. Each FSR will be posted here regardless of the outcome or if discipline was recommended. You can review the "How to Read a Final Summary Report" page to learn more about the reports. The timing for posting reports depends on the finding and what, if any, discipline is recommended.

This portal also contains materials COPA releases pursuant to the City's Video Release Policy ("VRP"). For cases that fall under the VRP, COPA posts all media and police reports relevant to the subject matter of the investigation that are in COPA's possession at the time of initial release. COPA will issue a supplemental release if it subsequently obtains or identifies additional media or police reports relevant to the subject matter of the investigation.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act's personal information exemption (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(c)) which protects the unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, COPA redacts certain video, audio, and reports, including the FSR.

For tips on how to navigate this portal, please visit our FAQ section.

Viewer Discretion Advised: Some of the video content available on this website depicts incidents that are graphic in nature and/or contains strong language, which some viewers may find disturbing.

Search	Log#	Incident Date & Time	District of Occurrence	COPA Notification Date	Transparency Release Date	Closed Date	FSR/Memo Posted Date
--------	------	----------------------	------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------	----------------------

Example of Transparency

Chicago's Video Release Case Portal

<https://www.chicagocopa.org/data-cases/case-portal/>

This portal also contains materials COPA releases pursuant to the [City's Video Release Policy](#) ("VRP"). For cases that fall under the VRP, COPA posts all media and police reports relevant to the subject matter of the investigation that are in COPA's possession at the time of initial release. COPA will issue a supplemental release if it subsequently obtains or identifies additional media or police reports relevant to the subject matter of the investigation.

COPA

About - Complaints - Investigations - Community Outreach - PRAD - Data & Cases - News & Publications - FAQs - Contact - Careers

CASE PORTAL

COPA produces a detailed Final Summary Report ("FSR") for all investigations that result in findings. Each FSR will be posted here regardless of the outcome or if discipline was recommended. You can review the "How to Read a Final Summary Report" page to learn more about the reports. The timing for posting reports depends on the finding and what, if any, discipline is recommended.

This portal also contains materials COPA releases pursuant to the City's Video Release Policy ("VRP"). For cases that fall under the VRP, COPA posts all media and police reports relevant to the subject matter of the investigation that are in COPA's possession at the time of initial release. COPA will issue a supplemental release if it subsequently obtains or identifies additional media or police reports relevant to the subject matter of the investigation.

Pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act's personal information exemption (5 ILCS 140/7)(c) which protects the unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, COPA redacts certain video, audio, and reports, including the FSR.

For tips on how to navigate this portal, please visit our FAQ section.

Viewer Discretion Advised: Some of the video content available on this website depicts incidents that are graphic in nature and/or contains strong language, which some viewers may find disturbing.

Search

Log#	Incident Date & Time	District of Occurrence	COPA Notification Date	Transparency Release Date	Closed Date	FSR/Memo Posted Date
------	----------------------	------------------------	------------------------	---------------------------	-------------	----------------------

Example of Transparency


Chicago's Video Release Case Portal

The screenshot displays the COPA Chicago's Video Release Case Portal. At the top left is the COPA logo. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: About, Complaints, Investigations, Community Outreach, PRAD, Data & Cases, News & Publications, FAQs, Contact, and Careers. On the left side, there is a search panel with a search input field, a dropdown for 'Log#' (set to 'All Incident Types'), and a dropdown for 'Results Per Page'. Below this is a list of incident types with radio buttons. The main area is a table with the following columns: Log#, Incident Date & Time, District of Occurrence, COPA Notification Date, Transparency Release Date, Closed Date, and FSR/Memo Posted Date. The table contains 10 rows of data. The row with Log# 2024-0005768 is highlighted with a red box.

Log#	Incident Date & Time	District of Occurrence	COPA Notification Date	Transparency Release Date	Closed Date	FSR/Memo Posted Date
2024-0007553	10/03/2024 12:36 pm	07	10/03/2024			
2024-0006685	08/18/2024 1:16 am	12	08/18/2024			
2024-0006256	07/23/2024 5:33 am	22	07/23/2024	08/27/2024		
2024-0006126	07/13/2024 8:48 pm	25	07/13/2024			
2024-0005768	06/23/2024 5:12 pm	06	06/23/2024	08/15/2024		
2024-0005309	05/27/2024 11:10 pm	15	05/27/2024	07/02/2024		
2024-0003540	04/21/2024 11:31 am	09	04/21/2024	05/28/2024		
2024-0003504	09/05/2021 12:12 am	25	09/05/2021		07/10/2023	08/22/2024
2024-0003052	03/21/2024 6:02 pm	11	03/21/2024	04/09/2024		
2024-0003011	03/17/2024 7:30 pm	11	03/20/2024			
2024-0002999	03/09/2024 08:00 am	08	03/09/2024			

Example of Transparency

Chicago's Video Release Case Portal



- About
- Complaints
- Investigations
- Community Outreach
- PRAD
- Data & Cases
- News & Publications
- FAQs
- Contact
- Careers

Search

Incident Types

- Abuse of Authority
- Body-Worn Camera Violation
- Coercion
- Death or Serious Bodily Injury in Custody
- Domestic Violence
- Excessive Force
- Failure to Report Misconduct
- False Statement
- Firearm Discharge
- Firearm Discharge - Animal
- Firearm Discharge - Suicide
- Firearm Discharge - Unintentional
- First Amendment
- Improper Search & Seizure - Fourth Amendment Violation
- Incidents in Lockup
- Motor Vehicle Incidents
- OC Spray Discharge
- Operational Violations
- Other Investigations

Log# 2024-0005768


Posted August 1, 2024

Log#	Incident Date & Time	District of Occurrence	COPA Notification Date	Transparency Release Date	Closed Date	FSR/Memo Posted Date
2024-0005768	06-23-2024 5:12 pm	06	06-23-2024	08-15-2024	-	-


Subject: David Curry

This post was updated on August 15, 2024, to include all relevant video, audio, and Chicago Police Department records in COPA's possession that are required to be released related to the use of force in this incident and the events immediately following it. A previous court order entered on July 31, 2024, in the case of *People v. David Curry*, No. 24CR0674201, that prohibited COPA's release is no longer in place. That order is included in the materials below.


Documents



Case Report



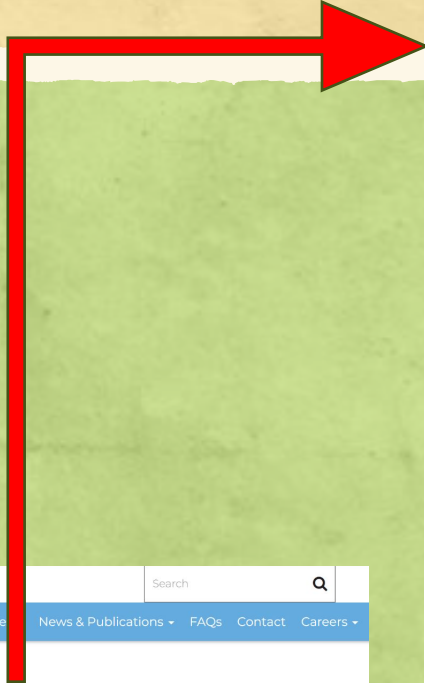
Arrest Report



Tactical Response Report

Example of Transparency

Chicago's Video Release Case Portal



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT		FINAL APPROVAL		CB #: 30365007
ARREST REPORT				IR #: 2444571
3510 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60653 <small>(For use by Chicago Police Department Personnel Only) CPD-11. 420C (REV. 6/30)</small>				YD #:
				RD #: JH318399
				EVENT #: 2417510482
ARREST REPORTING				
OFFENDER	Name: CURRY, David C		Male	NO PICTURE AVAILABLE
	Res: [REDACTED] Unk	Beat: 614	Black 5' 10" 185 lbs Brown Eyes Black Hair Short Hair Style Medium Brown Complexion	
INCIDENT	DOB: [REDACTED] 2002			
	AGE: 21 years			
IS	POB: Illinois			
	DLN: [REDACTED]			
ARMED WITH: Firearm (Unknown Type)				
Arrest Date: 23 June 2024 17:12		TRR Completed? Yes	Total No Arrested: 1	Co-Arrests
Location: 8114 S Hermitage Ave Chicago, IL 60620 092 - Alley		Beat: 614	Dependent Children? No	Assoc Cases DCFS Ward ? No
Holding Facility: District 006 Lockup				
Resisted Arrest? Yes				
IS	1	Offense As Cited 720 ILCS 5.0/24-1-A-9	Domestic Related	Victim State Of Illinois, P.O Murphy#17179
	2	Offense As Cited 720 ILCS 5.0/12-3.3-A U.U.W - WEAPON - POSSESS/CARRY /CONCEAL WEAPON Class 4 - Type F	Domestic Related	[REDACTED], [REDACTED]
	3	Offense As Cited 720 ILCS 5.0/24-1-A-7-I DOMESTIC BATTERY - AGGRAVATED Class 2 - Type F	Domestic Related	State Of Illinois, P.O Murphy#17179

COPA Search

About -> Complaints -> Investigations -> Community Outreach -> PRAD -> Data & Case -> News & Publications -> FAQs -> Contact -> Careers ->

Documents

- Case Report
- Arrest Report
- Tactical Response Report
- Foot Pursuit Report
- Court Order
- Press Release

Media

- BWC 1 | Involved Officer
- BWC 2 | Witness Officer
- BWC 3 | After Use of Force



Incident Date



Start: [] End: []



Example of Transparency



Chicago's Video Release Case Portal



Unnecessary Display of Force
 Weapon
 Use of Deadly Force - Other
 Verbal Abuse
 Weapons Violations

Incident Date
Start 
End 

COPA Notification Date
Start 
End 















Transparency Release Date
Start 
End 

COPA Closed Date
Start 
End 

FSR/Memo Posted Date
Start 
End 

District of Occurrence

Media

 BWC 1 Involved Officer	 BWC 2 Witness Officer	 BWC 3 After Use of Force
 BWC 4 After Use of Force	 BWC 5 After Use of Force	 BWC 6 After Use of Force
 BWC 7 After Use of Force	 BWC 8 After Use of Force	 BWC 9 After Use of Force
 ICC 1 Involved Officer's vehicle	 ICC 2 Involved Officer's vehicle	 OEMC 1
 911 Call 1	 911 Call 2	

Example of Transparency

Chicago's Video Release Case Portal

Media

Weapon
 Use of Deadly Force - Other
 Verbal Abuse
 Weapons Violations

Incident Date
Start
End

COPA Notification Date
Start
End

Transparency Release Date
Start
End

COPA Closed Date
Start
End

FSR/Memo Posted Date
Start
End

District of Occurrence

BWC 1 | Involved Officer

04:05

Close

Example of Transparency

Chicago's Video Release Case Portal

The screenshot displays the Chicago's Video Release Case Portal interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with search filters including 'Weapon', 'Incident Date', 'COPA Notification Date', 'Transparency Release Date', 'COPA Closed Date', 'FSR/Memo Posted Date', and 'District of Occurrence'. The main area features a 'Media' gallery with a grid of video thumbnails labeled 'BWC 1 | Involved Officer', 'BWC 2 | Witness Officer', 'BWC 3 | ...', 'BWC 4 | After Use of Force', 'BWC 5 | After Use of Force', 'BWC 6 | ...', 'BWC 7 | After Use of Force', 'BWC 8 | After Use of Force', 'BWC 9 | ...', 'ICC 1 | Involved Officer's vehicle', 'ICC 2 | Involved Officer's vehicle', '911 Call 1', and '911 Call 2'. A red arrow points from the 'BWC 1 | Involved Officer' thumbnail to a large video player window. The video player shows a close-up of a person's face with a timestamp '2020-06-23 17:13:22 -0500' and 'AXON BODY 3 X60331330'. Below the video is a 'Share' button and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Email, and a code icon. The video URL 'https://vimeo.com/999214762' is displayed at the bottom of the player. A 'Close' button is located in the bottom right corner of the player window.

What Detroit Has Today

A Breach of City of Detroit Charter

What is supposed to happen:

Sec. 7-806. Duties of the Chief of Police.

1. The Chief of Police is the Chief Executive Officer of the police department and shall administer the department consistent with the policies, rules, and regulations established by the Board and shall organize the department with the approval of the Board;
2. Recommend rules, regulations, and procedures to the Board for its approval;

Sec. 7-803. Duties of the Board of Police Commissioners.

The Board shall:

1. In consultation with the Chief of Police, and with the approval of the Mayor establish policies, rules and regulations;

What Detroit Has Today

A Breach of City of Detroit Charter

BOPC Meeting

Chief's Report

November 30, 2023

(Pages 34-35)

<https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/events/2023-12/BOPC%20Meeting%20Transcript%20%20%2011-30-2023.pdf>

"...ours is going to be released as soon as possible. But no longer than 45 days is what our policy will be...So we said we can do this in 45 days as soon as possible, but at least 45 days. And like I said, that's the one that works for us."

October 3, 2024

(00:51:00)

https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/rec/play/MxofPWqPUpOQw6xqPIBQxEufeC4u9QWKIUCaZ5eqOWPxjPRRs-8LAh9qInnDbcueo7PGE8eDckyoUHYG.PT09Bw5oXuDXfKcK?canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fcityofdetroit.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F1uh19zBv2RZyPIBRh_DTTbsEcz6nKrF1nj5Zq6loKdNvlZfdx7WznTzFxxWr6ith.PfvL4b3h5k3qA5G4

"...in the interest of transparency I was willing to take that risk and implement a policy that had never in the history of the Detroit Police Department been implemented, that within 45 days of using force I will release the video, the audio, the 911 call and everything else."

Policy recommended to the Board? **NO**

Policy approved by the Board? **NO**

Compliance with City Charter? **NO**

What Detroit Has Had So Far

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKLS85kqDOw>

Brainwashing



Critical Incident Community Briefing – Fenkell & Bramell - Thursday, April 4, 2024

Chief White: *"Through this briefing you will be able to review what happened with context provided by our investigators."*

All context comes from the investigators, who are also responsible for building the cases for the Prosecutor regarding the suspects and the officers.



Critical Incident Community Briefing – Fenkell & Bramell - Thursday, April 4, 2024

Narrator: *"...engage the individuals in an informational encounter...officers can be seen turning the vehicle around under the suspicion that one of the individuals may have been armed."*

The narrator starts the video saying that DPD doesn't make a determination until the investigation is complete. However, throughout the video, the narrator provides justification for the officers' actions masked as "public education".



Critical Incident Community Briefing – Fenkell & Bramell - Thursday, April 4, 2024

Narrator: *"Please note that by law a police officer does not have to allow an individual to fire a weapon nor allow the individual to get to the point of aiming at the officer for the officer to perceive a viable threat."*

What Detroit Deserves

A Video Release Ordinance

“This ordinance is intended to strike a balance between competing and sometimes conflicting interests of

- 1. the public in obtaining timely access to video and audio recordings particularly those related initial police reports pertaining to certain incidents involving the use of force by police officers;***
- 2. individuals who are the subject of the police action;***
- 3. units of local, state and federal government (including agencies of the City) involved in investigating or otherwise addressing the consequences of those incidents.”***

DRAFT Video Release Ordinance for the City of Detroit

Version 6 – 12/18/2024

I. PURPOSE.

This ordinance will provide direction to officials and agencies of the City of Detroit (“City”) with respect to the public release by the City of video and audio recordings and certain reports that relate to certain types of incidents involving the Detroit Police Department (“DPD”) members and shall prescribe procedures under which requests can be made to delay temporarily the release of those items to the public.

II. ORDINANCE CONSIDERATIONS.

This ordinance is intended to strike a balance between competing and sometimes conflicting interests of

1. the public in obtaining timely access to video and audio recordings and reports particularly those pertaining to certain incidents involving the use of force by police officers;
2. individuals who are the subject of the police action;
3. units of local, state and federal government (including agencies of the City) involved in investigating or otherwise addressing the consequences of those incidents.

Government institutions and officials with appropriate jurisdiction may have an interest in temporarily delaying the release of such information to the public in circumstances where it might compromise their efforts to address these incidents, including (but not limited to) criminal, disciplinary or other types of investigations. Those interests may include a desire to avoid instances where early release of information could cause fact witnesses, whether civilian or otherwise, intentionally or inadvertently to conform their recollections of events to fit what they see in a video, hear in an audio recording, or read in a report. In addition, certain individuals, such as persons injured in these incidents or their families, may also have interests concerning the release of these items. Despite those interests, however, the people of the City have an undeniable, and in some cases paramount, interest in being informed, in a timely fashion and based on the most accurate information possible, about how their police department conducts its business, especially where the use of force by the police results in the death of, or bodily harm to, a civilian.

This ordinance attempts to balance those competing interests by permitting specifically interested entities to request a temporary delay in the public release of recordings or reports in order to protect the integrity and effectiveness of their investigations, while assuring that these materials will become available to the public within a limited and certain period of time. The goal of this ordinance is to increase transparency with respect to the operations of the DPD, and in doing so to foster increased trust and communication between the police department and the community whom it serves.

What Detroit Deserves

A Video Release Ordinance

III. SCOPE.

A. *“Incidents. This ordinance encompasses incidences where a DPD member has employed Use of Force or any other action that has or could have reasonably resulted in death or bodily harm, even if no allegation of misconduct is made, including...*

III. SCOPE.

A. **Incidents.** This ordinance encompasses incidences where a DPD member has employed Use of Force or any other action that has or could have reasonably resulted in death or bodily harm, even if no allegation of misconduct is made, including but not limited to:

1. any physical strike of instrumental contact with a person;
2. any intentional attempted physical strike or instrumental contact that does not take effect;
3. any significant physical contact that restricts the movement of a person;
4. any discharge of a firearm or other lethal/potentially lethal weapon;
5. any discharge of a taser, Bolawrap, Pepperballs, glass breakers, sound cannons, water cannons, or any other less-than-lethal device;
6. any discharge of chemical spray;
7. choke holds or hard hands;
8. the taking of a subject to the ground;
9. the deployment of a canine; and/or
10. all police chases.

“Bodily harm” means any injury (impairment of physical condition and/or pain) that is serious enough to require treatment as minor as basic field first aid up to treatment in a hospital or similar facility, including those facilities located in a correctional facility. This applies whether or not the treatment is offered or accepted.

(Referred to hereinafter as the “Incident.”)

B. **Recordings and Reports.** This ordinance applies to the following items that relate to any Incident:

1. all unredacted video and audio recordings relating to the Incident, including recordings of 911 calls, dispatch recordings, DPD radio calls, video and audio from DPD dash or body cameras, videos from DPD or surveillance equipment, any video or audio recordings made using cameras or equipment owned or used by any City entity, as well as any video or audio recordings made using cameras or equipment not owned or controlled by the City that come into the possession or control of DPD, the Board of Police Commissioners (“BOPC”), the Office of the Chief Investigator (“OCI”), or any City of Detroit department; and
2. all unredacted arrest reports, original case incident reports, Use of Force/Detainee Injury Report (UF-002), Supervisor Investigation Reports (UF-002a), officer battery report, any tactical response reports, all reports generated by DPD, as well as any reports not owned or generated by DPD that come into the possession or control of



What Detroit Deserves

A Video Release Ordinance

III. SCOPE.

B. “*Recordings and Reports.* This ordinance applies to the following items that relate to any Incident:

- 1. all unredacted video and audio recordings relating to the Incident...***
- 2. all unredacted arrest reports...and all reports that are required to be generated per policy...out of respect for the family’s privacy, autopsy reports will be released to the family and [only] with the permission of the family released to the public.”***

B. Recordings and Reports. This ordinance applies to the following items that relate to any Incident:

1. all unredacted video and audio recordings relating to the Incident, including recordings of 911 calls, dispatch recordings, DPD radio calls, video and audio from DPD dash or body cameras, videos from DPD or surveillance equipment, any video or audio recordings made using cameras or equipment owned or used by any City entity, as well as any video or audio recordings made using cameras or equipment not owned or controlled by the City that come into the possession or control of DPD, the Board of Police Commissioners (“BOPC”), the Office of the Chief Investigator (“OCI”), or any City of Detroit department; and
2. all unredacted arrest reports, original case incident reports, Use of Force/Detainee Injury Report (UF-002), Supervisor Investigation Reports (UF-002a), officer battery report, any tactical response reports, all reports generated by DPD, as well as any reports not owned or generated by DPD that come into the possession or control of

DPD, the Board of Police Commissioners (“BOPC”), the Office of the Chief Investigator (“OCI”), or any City of Detroit department. Out of respect for the family’s privacy, autopsy reports will be released to the family and with the permission of the family released to the public.

(Individually and collectively referred to hereinafter as “Information.”)

What Detroit Deserves

A Video Release Ordinance

IV. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

- A. ***“Timing of Release of Information. Any Information covered by this ordinance shall be released to the public no more than 7 calendar days from the date and time of the Incident...”***

IV. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

- A. **Timing of Release of Information.** Any Information covered by this ordinance shall be released to the public no more than 7 calendar days from the date and time of the Incident unless a request is made to delay the release of any or all the Information pursuant to this ordinance. Where any video or audio recording of an Incident covered by this ordinance made using cameras or equipment not owned or controlled by the City comes into the possession of the City after the date of that Incident, it shall be released to the public no more than 7 calendar days after it comes into the possession of the City. The City shall make every effort to provide for the release of such recordings simultaneously with the release of other Information related to the Incident; but such efforts shall not cause the delay in release of information in the City’s possession beyond 7 calendar days.
- B. **Requests to Delay Release.** Upon written request from a government entity specified herein, the City will delay release of Information for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days. Any such request shall be made in writing and shall be directed to the BOPC Attorney, City Council Director of Legislative Policy Division, and City Corporation Counsel. Such a request may be made by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, the Wayne County Prosecutor, the Attorney General of Michigan, BOPC, or any other federal, state, county or local law enforcement agency. Any request must set forth with specificity the length of the delay requested (not to exceed 30 calendar days) and shall set forth as reasons supporting the requested delay, 1 or more of the factors listed in Michigan Court Rule 8.119 (Court Records and Reports). In addition, any such request must identify the specific item(s) sought to be temporarily withheld from release. The written request to delay release will itself be released to the public immediately upon receipt using a portal or website used for the distribution of Information subject to this ordinance. The City will not honor any further requests to delay release beyond the initial request, and will not honor a request for a delay of release that exceeds 30 calendar days.
- C. **Early Release of Information.** Where doing so will not compromise an ongoing investigation, any Information covered by this ordinance may be released before the expiration of 7 calendar days, and may occur as soon as possible after the Incident.

- D. **Manner of Release of Information.** The City shall create and maintain a publicly accessible website, dropbox or similar portal dedicated to the posting of Information covered by this ordinance. Such website shall be controlled and managed by the Board of Police Commissioners as the oversight and transparency body.

What Detroit Deserves

A Video Release Ordinance

IV. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

B. “Requests to Delay Release. Upon written request from a government entity specified herein, the City will delay release of Information for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days...and shall set forth as reasons supporting the requested delay, 1 or more of the factors listed in Michigan Court Rule 8.119 (Court Records and Reports).”

IV. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

A. **Timing of Release of Information.** Any Information covered by this ordinance shall be released to the public no more than 7 calendar days from the date and time of the Incident unless a request is made to delay the release of any or all the Information pursuant to this ordinance. Where any video or audio recording of an Incident covered by this ordinance made using cameras or equipment not owned or controlled by the City comes into the possession of the City after the date of that Incident, it shall be released to the public no more than 7 calendar days after it comes into the possession of the City. The City shall make every effort to provide for the release of such recordings simultaneously with the release of other Information related to the Incident; but such efforts shall not cause the delay in release of information in the City’s possession beyond 7 calendar days.

B. **Requests to Delay Release.** Upon written request from a government entity specified herein, the City will delay release of Information for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days. Any such request shall be made in writing and shall be directed to the BOPC Attorney, City Council Director of Legislative Policy Division, and City Corporation Counsel. Such a request may be made by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, the Wayne County Prosecutor, the Attorney General of Michigan, BOPC, or any other federal, state, county or local law enforcement agency. Any request must set forth with specificity the length of the delay requested (not to exceed 30 calendar days) and shall set forth as reasons supporting the requested delay, 1 or more of the factors listed in Michigan Court Rule 8.119 (Court Records and Reports). In addition, any such request must identify the specific item(s) sought to be temporarily withheld from release. The written request to delay release will itself be released to the public immediately upon receipt using a portal or website used for the distribution of Information subject to this ordinance. The City will not honor any further requests to delay release beyond the initial request, and will not honor a request for a delay of release that exceeds 30 calendar days.

C. **Early Release of Information.** Where doing so will not compromise an ongoing investigation, any Information covered by this ordinance may be released before the expiration of 7 calendar days, and may occur as soon as possible after the Incident.

D. **Manner of Release of Information.** The City shall create and maintain a publicly accessible website, dropbox or similar portal dedicated to the posting of Information covered by this ordinance. Such website shall be controlled and managed by the Board of Police Commissioners as the oversight and transparency body.



What Detroit Deserves

A Video Release Ordinance

IV. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

D. “Manner of Release of Information. The City shall create and maintain a publicly accessible website, dropbox or similar portal dedicated to the posting of Information covered by this ordinance. Such website shall be controlled and managed by the Board of Police Commissioners as the oversight and transparency body.”

IV. RELEASE OF INFORMATION

- A. **Timing of Release of Information.** Any Information covered by this ordinance shall be released to the public no more than 7 calendar days from the date and time of the Incident unless a request is made to delay the release of any or all the Information pursuant to this ordinance. Where any video or audio recording of an Incident covered by this ordinance made using cameras or equipment not owned or controlled by the City comes into the possession of the City after the date of that Incident, it shall be released to the public no more than 7 calendar days after it comes into the possession of the City. The City shall make every effort to provide for the release of such recordings simultaneously with the release of other Information related to the Incident; but such efforts shall not cause the delay in release of information in the City’s possession beyond 7 calendar days.
- B. **Requests to Delay Release.** Upon written request from a government entity specified herein, the City will delay release of Information for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days. Any such request shall be made in writing and shall be directed to the BOPC Attorney, City Council Director of Legislative Policy Division, and City Corporation Counsel. Such a request may be made by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, the Wayne County Prosecutor, the Attorney General of Michigan, BOPC, or any other federal, state, county or local law enforcement agency. Any request must set forth with specificity the length of the delay requested (not to exceed 30 calendar days) and shall set forth as reasons supporting the requested delay, 1 or more of the factors listed in Michigan Court Rule 8.119 (Court Records and Reports). In addition, any such request must identify the specific item(s) sought to be temporarily withheld from release. The written request to delay release will itself be released to the public immediately upon receipt using a portal or website used for the distribution of Information subject to this ordinance. The City will not honor any further requests to delay release beyond the initial request, and will not honor a request for a delay of release that exceeds 30 calendar days.
- C. **Early Release of Information.** Where doing so will not compromise an ongoing investigation, any Information covered by this ordinance may be released before the expiration of 7 calendar days, and may occur as soon as possible after the Incident.

D. **Manner of Release of Information.** The City shall create and maintain a publicly accessible website, dropbox or similar portal dedicated to the posting of Information covered by this ordinance. Such website shall be controlled and managed by the Board of Police Commissioners as the oversight and transparency body.

Why Detroit? Why an Ordinance?

- The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was established in 1974; however, Detroit is not currently the benchmark and example of transparency and accountability.
- Other cities, such as Chicago, have progressively adopted mandates for the timely release of videos and supporting documentation related to police use of force incidents.
- Video footage of use of force has been selectively fulfilled, delayed, and redacted at the Detroit Police Department's discretion.
- DPD watches the public freely through surveillance technology (i.e. Green Light, License Plate Readers, Facial Recognition); but currently the public can't freely watch DPD perform the functions our tax dollars pay them to do.
- Public safety is dependent upon, amongst other things, the establishment and maintenance of transparency with respect to the operations of the Detroit Police Department.
- The people of Detroit have an undeniable, and in some cases paramount, interest in being informed, in a timely fashion and based on the most accurate information possible, about how their police department conducts its business, especially where the use of force by the police results in the death of, or bodily harm to a civilian.
- Transparency is paramount to the public's trust in the police department and the judicial system as a whole.
- Ordinances are law in Detroit. This matter is too serious to be entrusted to the broken police department policy draft, recommendation, and approval process.
- The cost to fund the personnel and technology required to administer this ordinance would be recouped by the City in reduced misconduct, increased public trust, and reduced lawsuit payouts (\$25M per wrongful conviction)²¹

Progress to Date

- **Minister Eric Blount presented the Ordinance (this presentation) to City Council during the October 15, 2024 meeting.**
- **Commissioner Ricardo Moore sent a letter to City Council in support of the Ordinance.**
- **Educational flyers have been distributed throughout Detroit.**
- **Several residents have made comment during City Council meetings in support of the Ordinance.**
- **On March 12, 2025, Peter Rhoades (City Councilmember Angela Whitfield-Calloway's Policy Analyst) advised that the Ordinance was in final review and approval with the City Law Department.**

Call To Action

Transparency

NOW!

Demand that Detroit City Council:

- 1. Take up and approve the draft Video Release Ordinance for the City of Detroit as edited and submitted by the Coalition for Police Transparency and Accountability.*
- 2. Budget the Board of Police Commissioners sufficiently to secure personnel and technological resources to administer the Video Release Ordinance.*

BODY-WORN CAMERAS

304.6-3 PROCEDURE

- 1) All members at BWC equipped commands who have citizen interactions in the daily performances of their duty are mandated to wear a body-worn camera.
- 2) Prior to using a body-worn camera, members shall receive Department approved training on its proper operation and care in addition to the Department's policy with respect to the use of the body-worn camera.
 - a. Additional training shall be provided during in-service training to ensure the continued effective use of body-worn cameras.
- 3) At the beginning of each shift, the shift supervisor shall ensure each member is assigned and wearing an operable body-worn camera.

304.6 BODY-WORN CAMERAS

- 4) Members shall sync their assigned BWC with their assigned vehicle at the beginning of each shift.

304.6-3.1 When to Activate Body-Worn Cameras

The BWC shall be activated prior to initiating, or as soon as practical after initiating the following police actions:

- 1) Except as otherwise provided in this policy, members shall activate their body-worn cameras to record all contacts with citizens in the performance of his/her official duties (i.e. calls for service, vehicle stops, execution of search and/or arrest warrants, observed events, and casual encounters).
- 2) Once a body-worn camera is activated, the device shall remain on until the event is completed in order to ensure the integrity of the recording.
- 3) If a member fails to activate his/her body-worn camera, fails to record the entire event, or interrupts the recording, the member shall document on his/her Activity Log why the recording was not made, interrupted, or terminated.
- 4) If a member purposely de-activates his/her body-worn camera without justified cause, he/she may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 5) Members shall inform citizens immediately upon contact that they are being

304.6-5 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Inspection of Body-Worn Camera Equipment

Supervisors shall visually inspect the BWC equipment assigned to their subordinates being deployed at the start of each shift to ensure that the equipment is operational. Supervisors shall document the results of the inspection, as well as any reports from members of non-functioning BWC equipment, on his/her DPD 250, and the actions taken to remedy the non-functioning equipment.

Office of Professional Standards

The department reserves the right to make all video accessible to the Office of Professional Standards for any reason it deems necessary including but not limited to random video review, review for criminal complaints, review for policy compliance and internal investigations.

Office of the Chief Investigator

The department reserves the right to make all video accessible to the Office of the Chief Investigator in order to conduct OCI Investigations emanating from citizen complaints.

304.6-6 MEDIA STORAGE

- 1) At the end of each shift, each member shall return the BWC equipment to docking stations for video upload and battery charging.
- 2) The media captured by the BWC shall be securely stored and maintained by DPD or a third-party vendor according to the record retention policy set forth in Section 304.6-8 of this policy.
- 3) Any and all media captured by the BWC shall only be used for official department

304.6-8 RECORDS RETENTION

- 1) All files from body-worn cameras shall be securely stored on the DPD's local storage server for a period of ninety (90) days. Files flagged by administrative or legal department personnel shall be maintained after ninety (90) days and saved to a separate storage medium.
- 2) Any files retained longer than ninety (90) days shall be saved and maintained on a separate storage medium.

2) For purposes of request(s) submitted under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (the Act or FOIA), it should be noted that the images and audios recorded by the member's body-worn camera are a "public record" within the meaning of the Act.

ii. A review by the Law Department to make the necessary legal determination whether a portion or the entire video can be exempt from disclosure.

Our Strategy to Win

- 1. Identify our Organizational Allies***
- 2. Make the Campaign a Household Name***
- 3. Bring the Campaign directly to Detroiters***
- 4. Apply political pressure to City Council, forcing them to pass the ordinance***
- 5. Continue to build on our power and momentum for further wins in Police Accountability***



1. Identify our Organizational Allies

- We will need more than just the usual progressive orgs, and more than just their logos on a flyer.
- Like any successful campaign for policy change, we need faith-based organizations, unions, block clubs, and all other kinds of community groups supporting the effort.

ECPS supporting organizations:



ECPS
Empowering Communities for Public Safety

2. Make the Campaign a Household name



We have a list of businesses and high traffic areas to flyer on a regular basis and the materials to distribute. It will be easy for volunteers to show up and help out.

3. Bring the Campaign directly to Detroiters

- 1. We will repeatedly knock on doors in key areas where we plan to hold protest actions, building familiarity and maximizing our efforts.*
- 2. We will not only be on flyers, but in the news and on social media.*



4. Apply political pressure to City Council, forcing them to pass the ordinance



We will engage in points 1-3 until we have sufficient support to push CC to pass the ordinance. Some CC members may even grow to be our allies.

5. Continue to build on our power to win bigger fights for Police accountability and Community Control of Police.

- ***While important, the fight does not stop with the passage of the Ordinance, nor should we let the power we build wither away.***
- ***Future campaigns could look like:***
 - electing an all pro-accountability BOPC,***
 - legislating additional powers and scope to the BOPC,***
 - Winning hiring/firing power over corrupt/violent cops,***
 - BOPC power to set DPD budget,***
 - Establishing Precinct Councils to expand level of community input on policing,***
 - and more!***

Next Steps: We need you!

- Will you help with the “boots on the ground” work for this campaign?
 - flyering,
 - door knocking,
 - speaking with business owners, unions, and faith leaders,
 - protesting
- Attend the biweekly DAARPR meetings and sign up for our mailing list!
Next mtg: Friday, April 11th, 6pm @ 27th letter books
- Will you help with the policy work for this campaign?
 - researching policy
 - submitting FOIA requests
 - drafting ordinance and other policy recommendations
- Attend the weekly CPTA zoom meetings, wednesdays at 5pm!¹⁴