

Report to / Rapport au:

**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICES BOARD
LA COMMISSION DE SERVICES POLICIERS D'OTTAWA**

25 September 2023 / 25 septembre 2023

Submitted by / Soumis par:

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**SUBJECT: PUBLIC CONSULTATION APPROACH FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS**

**OBJET: APPROCHE DE LA CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE SUR LA MISE EN
SERVICE DE CAMÉRAS CORPORELLES**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Ottawa Police Services Board approve the consultation approach to solicit feedback on the implementation of body-worn cameras and in-car cameras.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que la Commission de services policiers d'Ottawa approuve l'approche de la consultation pour solliciter des commentaires sur la mise en service de caméras corporelles et de caméras dans les véhicules.

BACKGROUND

In February 2023, the Ottawa Police Services Board (the Board) approved the purchase of additional new Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs). The updated version of these devices included in-car cameras that also have video and audio capabilities that could potentially be used in tandem with body-worn cameras (BWC) to capture interactions between officers and drivers. Prior to these capabilities being enabled it is necessary and desirable to conduct community consultations to identify and address any possible issues linked to the use of video and/or audio capture with these new

devices and determine policies and procedures related to the potential rollout of body-worn cameras.

The development of a Digital Evidence Information Management System (DEIMS) is a strategic priority that is being undertaken by police jurisdictions around the province and across the country. The Solicitor General of Ontario (SGO) and the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) are promoting this direction with Ontario police services by providing subsidies and common project resources as part of a broad effort to create an integrated justice framework for the province.

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is planning to implement a DEIMS to provide the Service with the capability to organize, manage, and maintain all digital data files that are collected by officers and/or shared by the public with the OPS. The DEIMS will support the management of video/audio files captured by devices such as the in-car camera and interview room video. It will also offer an opportunity for the OPS to introduce additional digital capture capabilities that could allow officers to wear body worn cameras or better-leverage the use of smartphone apps.

To support this important work, the OPS will begin a public consultation process with respect to the introduction of body-worn cameras for frontline officers, as well as the installation of in-car cameras, as part of the DEIMS project scope.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval from the Board for a public consultation approach for the proposed use of body-worn cameras and in-car cameras.

In the spring of 2023, the OPS launched a multi-phased plan to roll out a DEIMS solution. The scope of work is vast, and the impact will touch on almost all parts of the organization. Public consultation is an important part of the first phase of work which also includes the overall planning, the financial forecast, the installation of in-car cameras, purchased with SOLGEN grant funds, and preparations for a pilot to deploy body-worn cameras with a small group of frontline officers. Due to technology that is at end-of-life, there is a need to accelerate the adoption of DEIMS to support the replacement of technology for Interview rooms.

The DEIMS program is aligned to provincial direction and can expect to report benefits from the deployment of the DEIMS, as well as the in-car cameras, and body-worn cameras, including:

- **Transparency:** It will be possible to share an unbiased account of how the police process was applied to a given interaction with the public.

- **Accountability:** All activities and interactions can be recorded and reviewed to ensure the professional standards and duty of care have been met.
- **Evidence Collection:** Collection of audio/video records of any interaction that can then be submitted as evidence.
- **Training and Evaluation:** Recordings can be reviewed to identify and reinforce standard processes and provide training moments for officers with their supervisors.
- **De-escalation:** Studies have shown that the presence of body cameras alters how people interact with officers and reduces the likelihood of escalation.
- **Protection for Citizens & Officers:** A separate unbiased account that may inform whether there is a basis for a complaint to be considered, which should lead to swift resolution of public complaints, and equally, any false accusations or unjust complaints.
- Video footage provides an objective record of events whenever recorded.
- Enhanced services to all citizens of Ottawa

The OPS can share resources for project approaches and materials developed by other jurisdictions in Ontario through a portal set up by the SGO. The Service can expect support from the SGO, in the form of subsidies, as it deploys DEIMS user licenses to members of the OPS.

From shared reports and consultation with other jurisdictions, such as Toronto Police Service, Peel Regional Police and York Regional Police, there are common Key Performance Indicator (KPIs) for OPS to consider for measurement of public feedback and as part of the proposed BWC pilot deployment. The TPS Body-Worn Camera Pilot Project Evaluation report (attached D1) is a good example of how these KPIs have been used to provide a sound basis for the assessment of the body-worn cameras and digital evidence information management, in general.

The team will conduct community consultations this fall to review the implementation of the system, the technology to be deployed and to introduce the BWC pilot approach. This is being done to ensure that any possible issues linked to the use of video/audio capture and its management are addressed and mitigated prior to implementation and deployment. This will also be an opportunity to share the range of enhanced services and benefits that are associated with the adoption of this technology for policing with the residents of Ottawa. All feedback will be reviewed and will be factored into policy and

procedure development where appropriate, as well as the training provided to officers as part of the preparation for the proposed BWC pilot deployment.

CONSULTATION

Consultation will have two key focus areas: internally with our members, and externally with community leaders, stakeholder groups and the public at large.

Public Consultation

The deployment of in-car cameras and body-worn cameras has been generally favourable in communities where they have been introduced. The OPS is committed to engaging the community to discuss the potential deployment of body-worn cameras, the in-car cameras, supported by the modernization of the Service with the implementation of a new DEIMS. During community engagement sessions, the OPS can provide information about the benefits and enhancements offered by this new technology to police services.

It will also be an opportunity to receive feedback and suggestions, refine plans and identify and address any concerns prior to implementation. The feedback received will factor into policy and procedure development, as well as training for officers in the use of body-worn cameras while on duty.

The consultation approach will include multiple channels for sharing information and seeking input from the public.

It will include:

- An opportunity for the public to respond to a set of survey questions to capture feedback.
- A centralized page on the OPS website that includes information and materials to help raise awareness and provide engagement opportunities.
- Demonstrations of the new equipment through presentations and sessions,
- Sharing information with residents on our social media channels,
- Interviews with subject matter experts including academics,
- Consultation sessions with stakeholder groups and coalitions like the Community Equity Council,
- Dedicated project email for feedback and inquiries, and Community updates and invitations for on-demand presentations

Starting this fall, the first window of engagement will focus on providing information and capturing initial feedback about the new in-car cameras and the upcoming body worn

camera pilot project. It will also offer initial feedback and insights before the implementation of the pilot of the BWC deployment.

The initial feedback provided during this time will be consolidated into a preliminary report that will be presented to the Board. That initial report will be delivered to Board in Q1 2024.

The community will continue to be consulted throughout the pilot as part of the implementation and assessment of the pilot project. The opportunity to direct survey questions towards members of the community who had direct contact with officers in the pilot will provide firsthand impressions and assist with the refinement of process and procedures.

OPS Member Consultation

There will be internal consultation of our members with respect to expectations and potential challenges to be addressed by the project team, as the DEIMS is preparing for implementation and rollout into production.

Member consultation will be conducted in two parts: prior to the proposed pilot deployment and as an ongoing monitoring of the pilot deployment period. This will offer insight into shifts of perception as a result of OPS deploying the proposed BWC pilot. All of the feedback we receive will be collected, analyzed and presented to the Board for its review at the end of the Pilot Deployment period (Q2 2024). The data will help to inform policy and procedures for DEIMS and the potential use of body-worn cameras in a full scale deployment for OPS.

Metrics for Evaluation

A preliminary slate of measures is proposed for evaluating the BWC pilot. The measures will assess the following dimensions:

- Effect on the Community
- Public and Sworn Officer Safety
- Public Complaints
- Use of Force
- Level of Support
- Supervision
- Investigations/Court
- Officer Availability
- Workload

Reporting

As already stated there will be two reporting stages:

- a preliminary report as OPS is set to recommend the proposed BWC pilot deployment, and,
- a final report that will present the initial observations again and will compare them to data and measures from the end of the Pilot Deployment period.

The initial report will consolidate feedback collected in the fall 2023 prior to the proposed BWC Pilot. As the preliminary report it will focus on summary concerns and issues that are part of the recommendations for the BWC pilot.

The final report will also bring more in-depth analysis of the pilot metrics, a technical evaluation of the BWC deployment, financial impacts and any further recommendations that arise from consideration of this data.

Proposed pilot deployment of body-worn Cameras

The OPS proposes to launch a small pilot program to test out the use of body-worn cameras. As previously stated, initial public feedback will be factored into this deployment. The pilot deployment will include 65 frontline officers to assess and develop a broader operational rollout of the devices. With Board approval, it is anticipated that this pilot will be launched mid to late 2024, depending on results from the initial internal and external engagement efforts. Feedback from officers participating in the pilot project will also be incorporated into training and policy to ensure a seamless transition if full approvals are obtained.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial forecasts related to the DEIMS project will be included in the draft 2024 Budget.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Toronto Police Service – Body Worn Cameras, June 2016

CONCLUSION

This report serves to outline the consultation process for the implementation of the DEIMS at the OPS, including the deployment of in-car cameras and a body worn camera pilot project later this year.

We are seeking the Board's approval for this consultative approach and expect to report back in Q1 2024 with the initial results of this initiative.

By working in collaboration and seeking multi-channel feedback from the community, we can make informed decisions on how best to modernize our police service and meet the public safety needs of Ottawa.

The feedback from our public consultations will help raise awareness and improve the use of these new video evidence tools, including enhanced overall quality, procedures, and training to support the overall successful deployment of the DEIMS solution.

Document 1

D1 – Toronto Police Service – Body-worn Cameras, June 2016