



HOLLY SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The Holly Springs Police Department (HSPD) will be equipping its uniformed patrol officers with new body-worn cameras (BWC) and updating and expanding its in-car cameras ("dashcams"). The use of BWCs will benefit members of the community and HSPD by increasing accountability, transparency, and strengthening the trust of those HSPD serves.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a body-worn camera?

A BWC is a forward-facing audio and video capturing system that is attached to the outside, upper body of an officer's uniform to make video and audio recordings.

Why are HSPD Officers wearing cameras?

BWC technology has developed to the point where it is becoming an industry standard. Police departments nationwide are adopting the BWCs for their departments. Some of the proven benefits of wearing BWCs are:

- Greater transparency
- Promoting accountability
- Evidence collection
- Deterring criminal activity and uncooperative behavior
- Assisting officers with accurately completing reports and providing testimony in court

Do other local police departments use BWCs?

Yes, most surrounding jurisdictions have implemented the use of body-worn camera systems including Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner and Morrisville police departments.

When will the BWC system be fully implemented?

- Preliminary Implementation April – June 2021
- Public Roll-out June 2021
- Full Implementation July 2021

What body-worn camera system will HSPD be using?

The department will be using a Motorola subsidiary, Watchguard, as their body-worn camera system provider and their cloud-based video management system (VMS) to manage the videos that have been captured. To learn more about the camera, VMS, or their other products, please visit their website at https://www.motorolasolutions.com/en_us/video-security-analytics/body-worn-cameras/v300-story.html .

Who will be wearing body-worn cameras?

All on-duty uniformed police officers.

When will officers be recording with their body-worn cameras?

Police officers will activate their BWC whenever they respond to calls for service or have public contacts initiated pursuant to the investigation of possible criminal activity or other law enforcement purposes. The use of BWC is guided by department policy and the North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS § 132-1.4A).

How do I know if I am being captured on video?

The camera worn by officers will be clearly visible. Officers will inform members of the public that they are being recorded, unless exigent or emergency situations prevent them from doing so. If the officer is taking law enforcement action and is wearing a video camera, you can assume he/she has activated the video. You may also ask the officer if his/her video is activated.

Are there places where officers cannot use their body cameras?

Typically, officers will not record in places where there is an expectation of privacy, such as restrooms, locker rooms, and medical patient care areas — unless there is reasonable suspicion a crime is being committed or the recording of the location is material to an investigation.

There may be times when officers should be sensitive to a situation and use discretion on their decision to record contacts while handling certain calls for service. Some examples include, but are not limited to: interviewing of sexual assault victims, recording in hospitals when other patients who are not related to a police incident could be recorded, or at the request of hospital staff member.

What about my privacy?

The courts have long held that an individual has no expectation of privacy in a public place. It is also true that if an officer has a legal right to be somewhere, he/she can also capture video. This includes private property. Concern for an individual's privacy also is why North Carolina general statutes carefully restrict the release of the captured video.

What happens to a video once it is recorded?

At the end of each shift, officers will upload the data to an encrypted and secure cloud-based service to store the files. Depending on the type of video captured, data will be saved as required by law.

What is the process for viewing or obtaining a copy of a body-worn camera video?

Law enforcement videos are not considered public records under state law and these types of requests are governed by NCGS § 132-1.4A. Generally, an adult, a juvenile's parent or guardian, or a designated representative who requests to disclose (view) or obtain a copy (release) of a video recording by an officer's body-worn or in-car video must be either verbally or visually captured in the recording. There are several delineated reasons, including an ongoing criminal or internal investigation that may result in the denial of a request for disclosure or release. Denied requests of involved parties, may then appeal their request to the Superior Court. For more complete details and information click on the following link

https://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_132/GS_132-1.4A.pdf .