



The Executive Summary should be interpreted within the context of the complete engagement report.

September 2020

## BACKGROUND

The Aurora Police Department (APD) started its body-worn camera (BWC) program in 2016.

The Department's philosophy regarding body-worn cameras is that their use is to enhance safety, accountability, transparency, the preservation of evidence, and documentation.

When appropriately used, body-worn cameras can contribute to the transparency that the public is demanding related to encounters with law enforcement. They can also protect officers by providing critical context leading up to acts of force. Their effectiveness can depend on how well the officers and the Department comply with laws, policies, and best practices related to their usage.

## Aurora Police Department Body-Worn Camera Compliance

### SCOPE

- Aurora Police Department processes in force as of March 2020;
- Body-worn camera footage from the VieVu video system between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020 in the system as of April 28, 2020; and,
- Computer-aided dispatch (CAD) information from May 1 through May 31, 2020, in the system as of June 2, 2020.

### OBJECTIVE

How well does the Aurora Police Department comply with policies, laws, and best practices related to the use of body-worn cameras?

### CONCLUSIONS

We conclude based on our engagement procedures that Aurora Police complies with some, but not all, policies and best practices.

### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES

*Policy:* We recommend that Aurora Police update the Body-Worn Camera Directive to reflect the best practices listed in the report.

*Interrupted footage:* We recommend APD comply with Directives 16.4.3 and 16.4.5, develop procedures to monitor for compliance, and take appropriate action to address any future department-wide non-compliance identified during APD reviews in accordance with existing policies. We recommend APD update its training to reflect an expectation that cameras will be on for the entirety of an event, with limited exceptions.

*Reviews:* We recommend APD assign responsibility for monitoring department-wide body-worn camera compliance with Directive 16.4 to an appropriate unit. We also recommend APD develop a structured approach for supervisor reviews, including templates and checklists, or specific compliance areas Supervisors can document within the BWC system.

### City Manager Response

This Audit helps bolster the case for the establishment of a police audit function that will help improve the integrity of the department, increase transparency and help build community trust in the good work that APD does.

### Police Response

We agree with the recommendations. We are working to make policy revisions to address the issues. Currently there is no unit that can complete the monitoring task. We will be looking to see if there is a technology answer to this issue as we go through the RFP process.

View complete audit report: [Link](#)