

Conference Findings

Employee Name: FRED BENNINK
Employee Position: BOARD.
Division: N/A
Event (and dates attended): APR 29 BODY WORN CAMERA SEMINAR.
Location: VIRTUAL ERIC LAMING UOFT CRIMINOLOGY STUDIES
Total Cost: \$100.-

Describe in one or two paragraphs (or in point form) one or more findings from your attendance at this event that should be shared with your fellow employees or senior management of the Department and Corporation. Consider how it may improve the job performance of others, or result in improved public/service delivery and customer service, or contribute to improved budgetary performance by your Division, our Department and the City (new revenues, cost reductions, greater productivity, etc.). Include networking opportunities or learning experiences that resulted by your attendance.

EVEN THOUGH MANY SERVICES IN NORTH AMERICA HAVE BWC'S, THE PROS & CONS REMAIN @ 50/50.

Will this information help the Department, and City, achieve their goals and, if so, which goals in particular?

SEE ATTACHED SUMMARY POWER POINT.

Please rate the Conference (1 is very poor, 10 is excellent)

Value for money spent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Conference content	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Recommended future attendance by self or others	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please fill out this form to evaluate business travel when overnight accommodation is required.

Perceived Benefits

Civilizing effect

- Both officer and civilian behaviour

Reduce illegitimate use of force

- Officers less likely to use force

Reduce unwarranted complaints

- Citizens less likely to file complaints

Improve police accountability + transparency

- Increase public trust

Evidentiary benefits

- Expedite court cases

Concerns

High costs associated with the technology

- Continuous investment in a BWC program

Privacy issues

- Facial recognition

Other policy challenges

- Police discretion in recording

Storage and retention

- Internal vs. cloud-based
- Length for retaining data

Perspective of the camera

- Officer perspective [objective?]
→ different interpretations

Review of BWC Studies

- Lum et al. (2019) review of BWC studies
- Examined 70 empirical BWC studies
- Categorized studies into BWC impact on officer behavior, officer perceptions, citizen behavior, citizen perceptions, police investigations, and police organizations
- Officers and citizens generally support BWC use
- BWCs have not had consistent effects on most measures of officer and citizen behaviour
- Anticipated impact of BWCs have not been fully realized

What to Make of BWC Research

- Why did use of force decrease in some agencies post-BWC deployment but not others?
 - Several possible explanations for this
- One consistency across the board: decrease in complaints against officers
 - Is this the best measure to determine BWC efficacy?
 - Could there be alternative explanations for these findings?
- Increase in arrests / decreased officer discretion
 - Mixed findings for this but cameras have strong potential to limit police discretion
- Public perceptions and attitudes about BWCs generally favourable

Body-Worn Cameras in Canada

- Limited academic research on BWCs in Canada
- Several police services have piloted/tested BWCs
 - Only a handful have adopted BWCs
 - RCMP, Toronto, Peel, and Calgary: largest services to commit to full adoption
- 2020 protests and calls to equip police with BWCs
 - Defund/divest in police but pay \$\$\$\$ for BWCs for police?
 - ~30 agencies have already committed to adoption and/or testing cameras since August 2020
- BWCs → not a magic bullet
 - BWCs will not fix problems in policing
 - BWCs will not end systemic racism
 - BWCs can be an effective tool → but they are only one tool
 - Proactive transparency + accountability is necessary

What Do You See?

- Perspective of police only
- The same video will produce different interpretations
- Other complications?
 - BWC footage at night
 - Extreme temperatures
 - Nunavut test study → Iqaluit RCMP piloting cameras in 2020/21
 - Network and infrastructure concerns → far north (internet/connectivity adequacy?)
 - Advanced camera capabilities
 - Live-streaming and facial recognition
- Police BWCs vs. bystanders cameras

Body Camera Adoption?

- Importance of community engagement
- The public needs to be a main part of the body camera adoption discussion
- Proactive $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ Reactive
 - Don't adopt BWCs first and then ask the public what they think later
- Need to reach all segments of the public
 - Marginalized communities
 - BIPOC residents
 - Community organizations and stakeholders
- Full public engagement will help inform next steps

Body Camera Policy

- A critical component of any BWC program
- A BWC policy is a “living” policy
 - Will need constant updating
- Clear guidelines necessary around BWC use/activation, storage, retention, access, release, auditing, etc.
 - Boivin et al. (2021) study on Montreal police BWC activation
- Toronto Police Service BWC Policy
 - Provides clear guidelines to police and the public
 - Easy for the average person to understand and digest
 - Weaknesses? → Yes
 - Does Toronto have the best BWC policy in Canada?

Body Camera Policy

- One of the most important parts to any BWC policy and program: **public education**
- Public often have high (and unrealistic) expectations of BWCs → police and governing bodies need to commit to an ongoing public education campaign
- Debatable issues with BWCs:
 - Intermittent recording vs. 24-hour recording
 - 24-hour continuous recording is unrealistic for several reasons
 - Public needs constant explanation as to WHY
 - Immediate release of video following police use of force resulting in serious injury or death
 - Laws and due process greatly differ in Canada compared to U.S. jurisdictions
 - Public needs to understand why immediate release of these videos is not possible

Governance

- Police boards/commissions need to determine if a BWC program is necessary
 - In consultation with local police and the public
- Police boards/commissions play a significant role in the development and creation of a BWC policy
 - Several BWC policies available that can help contribute to the creation of a policy
- Governance bodies have the responsibility to ensure police are accountable and transparent
 - BWCs do not automatically fulfill this
 - Strong leadership and robust policies determine accountability and transparency
- Consider: Independent/external body that has unfettered access to BWC video
 - This body determines release of footage (within legal confines)
 - Proactive transparency

Summary

- BWC use by police is expanding rapidly
- More Canadian research on the efficacy of BWCs is needed
- BWCs are not a cure-all
 - They can be useful insofar as what a police service and the community wants/expects out of them
- Strong policies can dictate and determine the effectiveness of a BWC program
 - Public engagement and education is key
- Police boards/commissions are a vehicle for improving accountability and transparency with BWC implementation (or not)