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News Release

For Immediate Release: December 17, 2015

Durham Police Release Draft Body Camera Policy

Public Invited to Make Comments

The Durham Police Department (DPD) is inviting residents to provide comments about its draft body-worn camera policy, which is being released Thursday, December 17.

DPD held six public listening forums in May and June to give residents an opportunity to speak to police leadership about the department's use of body cameras. While a date has yet to be determined, the department has decided to utilize body cameras and the selection of a body camera is close to being finalized. DPD is now ready for the next phase of the implementation process which includes allowing residents to make comments about the policy until January 14, 2016.

Police staff documented all comments and questions asked during the spring public listening forums and produced a question and answer document to accompany the draft policy.

"Body cameras represent an opportunity for the Durham Police Department to enhance transparency and accountability to the community," said Police Chief Jose L. Lopez Sr. "We received a lot of great feedback from the listening sessions and we want to hear directly from residents about the draft policy. As always we welcome and encourage residents to voice their ideas, priorities and concerns."

Durham residents can provide comments about the body camera policy using the following channels:

- Online: <http://svy.mk/1molrcs>
- Email: DPDPublicAffairs@durhamnc.gov
- Phone: 919.560.4322, extension 29198

Highlights of the draft body camera policy include the following:

- While body cameras could eventually become standard issue for all officers, initial deployment will include Uniform Patrol and High Enforcement Abatement Team (H.E.A.T.) officers.
- Officers will wear the body cameras for their entire work shift and during secondary employment/off-duty jobs.
- Officers will be required to begin recording immediately upon being dispatched to a call for service.
- Once placed in record mode policy requires that cameras will remain on until the initial incident that required activation has stabilized or concluded and the primary officer has left the scene. (*Parameters for deactivation of cameras and guidelines for prohibited use are outlined in the policy.*)
- Camera footage will be stored for at least 180 days unless it involves DWIs, misdemeanor or felony cases, accidents involving City of Durham vehicles or administrative investigations.
- Video footage captured by the cameras are records of a criminal investigation, just like the current in-car camera footage. As such, they are not public records per North Carolina General Statute §132-1.4.
- Officers will be required to complete training on both the cameras and the video management software prior to wearing the cameras.
- Cameras will not be shared between officers.