

### Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation

**Investigative Report** 

2022-1356

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44301



Investigative Activity: Akron Police Department Policies

**Activity Date:** June 29, 2022

**Authoring Agent:** Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

### **Narrative:**

On Wednesday, June 29, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Cory Momchilov received the following policies utilized by the Akron Police Department at the time of this incident:

- P-21-013 Resisting Arrest-Use of Force
- P-20-068 In-Custody Death or Serious Injury Investigation
- P-19-057 Conducted Electrical Weapon
- P-19-031 Body Worn Camera (BWC)

The documents received are attached to this Investigative Report for further review.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Page 1 of 1 Supervisor Approval: SAS David Posten #6 12/21/2022 11:55 AM



### CITY OF AKRON, OHIO

## **POLICE DIVISION**

### **KENNETH R. BALL II, CHIEF OF POLICE**

| NUMBER                                  | EFFECTIVE DATE  | RESCINDS                   |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| P-2021-013                              | January 4, 2021 | P-20-013 issued 07-08-2020 |
| SUBJECT                                 |                 | ISSUING AUTHORITY          |
| Resisting Arrest/Use of Force Procedure |                 | Chief Kenneth R. Ball II   |

### I. POLICY

This policy provides guidelines on the use of force, reporting the use of force, and investigating a use of force incident. When dealing with an angry, agitated, or non-compliant subject, the objective is to utilize de-escalation techniques to calm the individual and obtain voluntary cooperation. However, when officers must use force to defend themselves or others, to prevent a subject's escape, or to overcome a subject's resistance to the officer's efforts to accomplish an arrest or detention, such force shall meet the "objectively reasonable" standard.

### II. **DEFINITIONS**

- A. De-escalation Using non-confrontational verbal skills, empathy and active listening to stabilize the incident. De-escalation may also incorporate the use of additional time, distance and resources as well as persuasion, command presence, repositioning, and warnings, to reduce the intensity of a potentially violent situation to decrease the potential need to use force.
- B. Force Can be physical or nonphysical. Physical force is power exerted by an officer to control, subdue, or restrain another person. Nonphysical force is using an officer's presence or verbal commands to compel another person to do something, e.g. follow a lawful order.
- C. Reportable force For purposes of this procedure, the following types of physical force require reporting and supervisory investigation: striking, kicking, tackling, taking a person to the ground forcefully, use of a chemical defense spray, use of a conducted electrical weapon, K-9 applications of force, whenever force of any type results in physical injury, and when the suspect complains of physical injury from a use of force.
- D. Deadly force Any force that carries a substantial risk that it will proximately result in the serious physical injury or death of any person.
- E. Serious physical injury Injury that carries a substantial risk of death; or physical injury that results in permanent incapacity, partial or total serious disfigurement (whether permanent or temporary), or long-term acute pain or substantial suffering.
- F. Involved Officer Any officer who applies reportable force to a subject, or directs an officer to apply force to a subject. Any officer who assists in controlling/goes hands-on with a subject whom force has been used upon.

- G. Witness Officer An officer on the scene where force has been used and only observes the force. If an officer goes hands on or controls a subject whom force has been used upon, they are not a witness officer but an involved officer.
- H. Objectively reasonable force In determining the necessity for and the appropriate level of force, officers shall evaluate the totality of the circumstances known to the officer, including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others, and whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or is attempting to evade arrest by flight.<sup>1</sup>
- I. Active resistance A suspect's physical motions or movements, physical force, or show of force to counteract an officer's legal attempts to effect an arrest, or verbal hostility coupled with failure to comply with police orders.
- J. Passive resistance A suspect's nonviolent opposition to an officer's commands that does not involve physical resistance or verbal hostility.

#### III. PROCEDURE

### A. Use of Force – General

- 1. Officers may only use force when it is reasonably necessary to accomplish lawful objectives, including effecting a lawful arrest or overcoming resistance to a lawful arrest, preventing the escape of an offender, or protecting or defending themselves or others from physical harm.
- 2. The preservation of human life is of the highest value in the Akron Police Department. Therefore, officers must have an objectively reasonable belief that deadly force is necessary to protect life before the use of deadly force.
- 3. When responding to resistance, the response must be based on the actions and behaviors of the subject and be reasonable for the situation. Use of force should be discontinued when resistance ceases or when the suspect is under control.
- 4. Factors to be considered when determining the objective reasonableness of a use of force are:
  - a. The severity of the crime at issue;
  - b. Whether the subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others;
  - c. Whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

2022-06-29 Akron Police Department Policies - Bureau of Criminal Investigation Main Office 02/22/2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989)

#### B. Use of Force – Less-lethal force

- 1. An officer may use objectively reasonable less-lethal force to:
  - a. Protect the officer from the immediate threat of physical harm.
  - b. Protect any person(s) from the immediate threat of physical harm.
  - c. Restrain or subdue an individual who is actively resisting or evading arrest or detention:
    - i. Subjects may actively or passively resist the officer's lawful authority.
    - ii. The amount of force that is reasonable will depend upon the subject's actions, and the level of threat he/she presents to the officer or others.
- 2. Medical or mental health emergencies<sup>2</sup> Where a police/citizen encounter does not fit within the *Graham* test because the person in question has not committed a crime, is not resisting arrest, and is not directly threatening the officer, an officer may use reasonable force if:
  - a. The person is experiencing a medical emergency that renders the individual incapable of making a rational decision under circumstances that poses an immediate threat of serious harm to the individual or others;
  - b. Some degree of force is necessary to quell the immediate threat; and
  - c. The officer does not use more force than is reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

### C. Use of weapons

- 1. The use of weapons in the application of force must meet the objective reasonableness standard.
- 2. In certain circumstances, an officer may be forced to use any item or object as a weapon of opportunity or convenience.
  - a. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, cases where an officer cannot access a police weapon because of positioning, lack of time, or the officer has dropped the weapon in a scuffle.
  - b. In such cases, officers are authorized to use such items as a nontraditional weapon, e.g., portable radio, flashlight, a rock, a stick.

2022-06-29 Akron Police Department Policies - Bureau of Criminal Investigation Main Office 02/22/2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> *Hill v. Miracle*, (6<sup>th</sup>. Cir. 2017)

- D. Use of Deadly Force An officer may use force, up to and including deadly force to:
  - 1. Protect the officer from the immediate threat of serious physical harm or death.
  - 2. Protect any person(s) in immediate danger of serious physical harm or death.
  - 3. Where feasible, the officer gives a verbal warning of the imminent use of deadly force.
- E. Violent fleeing subject An officer may use deadly force to apprehend or to prevent the escape of a violent fleeing subject when the officer has probable cause to believe:
  - 1. The subject has committed, or intends to commit, a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical harm;
  - 2. The subject poses an imminent risk of serious physical harm or death to any person if the subject is not immediately apprehended; and
  - 3. Where feasible, the officer gives a verbal warning of the imminent use of deadly force.<sup>3</sup>
- F. Use of Force to suppress a riot: 4
  - 1. An officer is justified in using force, other than deadly force, when and to the extent he or she has probable cause to believe such force is necessary to disperse or apprehend rioters:
  - 2. An officer is justified in using force, including deadly force, when and to the extent he or she has probable cause to believe such force is necessary to disperse or apprehend rioters whose conduct is creating a substantial risk of serious physical harm to persons.
- G. Deadly Force Restrictions
  - 1. Deadly force should not be used against persons whose actions are a threat only to themselves or property.
  - 2. Shooting at or from moving vehicles:
    - a. Firearms shall not be discharged at a moving vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is threatening the officer or another person with deadly force by means other than the vehicle; or
    - b. The officer has objective reason to believe that the vehicle is operated in a manner intended to strike an officer or another person, and all other reasonable means of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> [Tennessee v. Garner 471 U.S. 1 (1985)]

<sup>4 (</sup>O.R.C. 2917.05)

- defense have been exhausted (or are not present or practical), which includes moving out of the path of the vehicle.
- c. An officer shall not discharge a firearm from a moving vehicle except in the immediate defense of life when there is no other reasonable alternative course of action.
- 3. Warning shots are prohibited.
- H. Prohibited Acts Use of Force. Force will not be used:
  - 1. As an investigative tool to threaten or attempt to gain information from a person.
  - 2. Against a person already in custody unless physical resistance must be overcome.
  - 3. As retaliation for physical or verbal abuse.
  - 4. Officers are not permitted to use weapons (e.g. OC Spray, Conducted Electrical Weapons) when the only action encountered is passive resistance (e.g. sit-ins).
  - 5. No police officer shall use any choke hold, strangle hold, or neck hold pursuant to Section 35.17 of the Akron Code of Ordinances.
- I. No duty to retreat During certain encounters, an officer may choose to retreat in order to de-escalate the situation or to gain a better tactical advantage. However, there is no obligation for an officer to retreat when faced with a threat that may require the officer to use force upon the threatening person(s), i.e., an officer need not retreat simply to avoid using force.
- J. Duty to Intercede Any officer who observes another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of unreasonable force. Officers shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor.
- K. Officer's Responsibilities
  - 1. An officer shall notify his or her immediate supervisor as soon as practicable when:
    - a. Any reportable force has been used against a person.
    - b. Any injury or alleged injury occurs to officers or civilians.
    - c. Any damage occurs to police or civilian property.
    - d. Any subject is charged with resisting arrest.
    - e. Any time an officer feels it is necessary.

- f. In the case of an off-duty incident, and the officer is unsure if the incident involved police action under the color of the law, the officer shall notify a supervisor.
- 2. Medical attention shall be provided when:
  - a. There is any visible injury that may require treatment.
  - b. The individual requests medical attention.
  - c. The individual is incapable of communicating his or her well-being.
  - d. The individual becomes unconscious at any time while in the officer's care and control.
  - e. The officer determines based on the circumstances that an individual should be treated
  - f. As required by the Conducted Electrical Weapon Procedure.
- 3. The officers involved in the incident will make every attempt to locate and identify all witnesses to the incident and obtain contact information if a witness is unable to remain at the scene. This information shall be forwarded to the responding supervisor
- 4. Complete all necessary paperwork.
  - a. All officers involved in a use of force/resisting arrest incident shall complete a Use of Force/Resisting Arrest report in BlueTeam.
    - 1) Officers using force shall articulate the factors perceived that gave rise to the application of force and why they believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances.
    - 2) Officers witnessing the incident shall complete a Use of Force Witness Statement form in BlueTeam, documenting the actions they observed from their perspective, including any relevant contributing factors.
  - b. An incident report shall be completed regardless of whether there are accompanying criminal charges to aid in tracking.
  - c. When there is damage to police or civilian property during a use of force/resisting arrest incident, officers shall complete a Lost/Damaged Property Report in BlueTeam.
  - d. When there are accompanying criminal charges, officers must note either in the Field Arrest Summons Form (for offenses not requiring a Report of Investigation) or the Report of Investigation that an investigative package exists to ensure the assigned prosecutor will be aware for discovery purposes. <sup>5</sup>

2022-06-29 Akron Police Department Policies - Bureau of Criminal Investigation Main Office 02/22/2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963)

### L. Investigating Supervisor's Responsibilities

- 1. Upon being notified/assigned, determine the appropriate response/follow-up:
  - a. If an officer has used reportable force against a person, or charges a person with Resisting Arrest, respond to the scene and complete an investigative package in BlueTeam.
  - If damage to either civilian or police property has occurred during a use of force/resisting arrest incident, ensure it is documented on a BlueTeam Lost, Damaged Property Report.
  - c. Some situations may require a supervisor to use his/her best judgment when it comes to determining if a situation meets the definition of a reportable use of force or when it is in all parties' best interest to conduct an investigation. Nothing in this section shall preclude a supervisor from conducting an investigation when he/she believes it to be necessary.

### 2. Investigative Actions

- a. Once the scene is deemed safe, ensure that any injured persons have received medical attention.
- b. Locate/interview witnesses and the subject of the use of force/resisting arrest. Interviews shall be recorded unless valid circumstances exist, and those circumstances shall be documented in the Supervisor's Resisting Arrest/Use of Force investigation.
- c. Ensure photographs are taken:
  - 1) Of the scene. (This can be helpful for anyone who must review the incident but was not on scene.)
  - 2) Of any person(s) injured, alleging injury.
  - 3) Of any person arrested for resisting arrest and of any person on which force has been used regardless of whether the person was injured.
  - 4) Of any visible injuries sustained by officers.
  - 5) Of any damage to police or civilian property (ensure officers complete a Lost/Damaged Property Report in BlueTeam).
- d. Determine whether any additional relevant information is available, e.g., radio traffic recordings, 911 calls, Body Worn Camera (BWC) videos, other videos, CAD notes, court records.

- e. Ensure that no involved/witness officers participate in the investigative process other than the limited involvement specified in this procedure.
- 3. Notify the shift commander of use of force/resisting arrest incidents prior to the end of the shift. The shift commander will then document the incident on the Commander's Report for tracking purposes.
  - a. If the supervisor's shift commander is not working, he/she must ensure the incident is documented on the Commander's Report.
  - b. If a subject is hospitalized or dies as a result or probable result of police action, or while in police custody, an on-duty shift commander shall be notified immediately.
    - 1) In the event of a death or <u>serious</u> injury to either the officer(s) involved or the suspect(s), the shift commander shall notify the Chief of Police, or designee.
    - 2) If a suspect is hospitalized with <u>serious</u> injuries or dies, and there is no on-duty shift commander, an off-duty shift commander shall be notified who shall then notify the Chief of Police, or his designee.
- 4. Complete a Supervisor's Injury Package whenever an officer is injured.
  - a. Ensure officer injury reports and witness statements are completed.
  - b. Complete a Supervisor's Report of Injury.
  - c. Print all reports on green paper.
  - d. Submit as soon as possible to the Services Sub-Division.
- 5. Blue Team Investigative packages shall include:
  - a. A Supervisor's Use of Force/Resisting Arrest investigation that documents:
    - 1) All investigative actions.
    - 2) Any allegations made by witnesses/suspects and how resolved.
    - 3) An assessment of statements made by officers, witnesses, and suspects (e.g., comparing/contrasting the various statements, noting other information that supports or contradicts statements made). Nothing in this procedure precludes the investigating supervisor from interviewing involved officers/witness officers if deemed necessary (in accordance with Article VII of the Collective Bargaining Agreement).
    - 4) Any injuries/alleged injuries.
    - 5) Whether medical treatment was provided or refused.

- 6) Whether the incident was captured on BWC, including the use of the audio recording feature. If not, the reason must be noted.
- 7) Assessment of contributing factors/circumstances in relation to objective reasonableness standard.
- b. Any audio/video recordings, including BWC downloads.
- c. Photographs.
- d. CAD printout.
- e. Officers' Use of Force/Resisting Arrest BlueTeam reports, Incident Reports, arrest paperwork, and any other relevant paperwork.
- f. All supporting documents and media must be attached to the BlueTeam report.
- 6. Forward the completed investigation in BlueTeam to the shift/unit commander for review.
- 7. The shift commander will forward the completed package in BlueTeam to the Office of Professional Standards and Accountability within 30 days of the date of occurrence. If extenuating circumstances exist that prevent an investigative package from reaching the Patrol Operations Office within 30 days, an extension may be requested through the subdivision commander.

### M. Investigative Package Review Process

- 1. The shift/unit commander shall review the investigative package and ensure that it contains the required components.
- 2. The shift/unit commander shall then forward the investigative package to the Office of Professional Standards and Accountability for further review.
- 3. If an investigation is returned for additions or clarifications, the investigating supervisor will then have 14 days to address the issues and return the investigative package to the Office of Professional Standards and Accountability.

#### N. Supervisor Response Contingencies

- 1. In the event a Patrol officer's immediate supervisor is unavailable, a supervisor assigned to the officer's shift shall be assigned to respond to the scene, if supervisor response is required.
  - a. If no shift supervisors are available, an on-duty Patrol supervisor shall be assigned to complete the preliminary investigation (e.g., witness statements, photos). That supervisor will then forward the results of the preliminary investigation to the shift commander of the involved officer for assignment and completion.

- b. In all cases where a shift supervisor is unavailable, the shift's Commander's Report will indicate the reason why no shift supervisor responded.
- 2. In the event the incident involves Investigative or Services personnel and requires supervisor response to the scene, a Patrol supervisor will be dispatched and will initiate the investigation until a supervisor from the officer's unit responds to the scene.
  - a. If no supervisor is available from the officer's unit to respond in a reasonable amount of time, or if the assignment of a supervisor would jeopardize a police operation, the Patrol supervisor will be responsible for the preliminary investigation. That supervisor will then forward the results of the preliminary investigation to the unit commander of the involved officer for assignment and completion.
  - b. In all cases where an officer's unit supervisor is unavailable, the unit's Commander's Report will indicate the reason why no unit supervisor responded.
- 3. In the event a supervisor is involved in a use of force, a supervisor of higher rank shall be responsible for conducting the investigation.
  - a. Under no circumstance shall a direct subordinate of the supervisor conduct the investigation.
  - b. If a supervisor of higher rank is not available, a supervisor of equal rank or a lower level, non-subordinate supervisor may conduct the preliminary investigation in the field. That supervisor will then forward the results of the preliminary investigation to a higher ranking supervisor in the involved supervisor's chain of command for completion.
  - c. Any supervisor involved in, or witness to, a use of force shall not conduct any part of the investigation with the exception of locating witnesses and obtaining contact information for any witness unable to remain at the scene.

### 4. Secondary Employment Incidents

- a. Shall be investigated by a supervisor working in a supervisory capacity for that secondary employer. If there is no supervisor working in that capacity at the secondary employment, or the supervisor was involved in or witnessed the incident then;
- b. A supervisor working at the secondary employment in a nonsupervisory capacity shall conduct the investigation. If there is no supervisor working at the secondary employment, or the supervisor was involved in or witnessed the incident then;
- c. The involved officer/supervisor shall contact the Communications Center and request that a supervisor respond to the scene (if supervisor response is required). An on-duty Patrol supervisor will be dispatched and shall be responsible for completing an investigative package.

- 5. Off-duty incidents shall be investigated by an on-duty Patrol supervisor.
- O. Review and Testing Sworn Agency personnel shall complete an annual review of this procedure and annual proficiency testing over the content to ensure awareness of departmental requirements. Review and testing may be conducted during roll calls.

| By Order Of,                          |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Kenneth R. Ball II<br>Chief of Police |  |
| Date                                  |  |



# CITY OF AKRON, OHIO POLICE DIVISION

### KENNETH R. BALL II, CHIEF OF POLICE

| NUMBER   | EFFECTIVE DATE    | RESCINDS                 |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| P-2020-068   | February 25, 2020 | P-17-068 issued 10-16-17 |
| SUBJECT  |                   | ISSUING AUTHORITY        |
| In-Custody Death or Serious Injury Investigation Procedure |                   | Chief Kenneth R. Ball II |

#### I. POLICY

The Investigative Subdivision is responsible for the prompt and thorough investigation of incidents involving Akron police officers acting under color of law who use force that causes or could have caused serious injury to any person, or are the victims of any person who causes or attempts to cause serious injury, or have a person in custody who dies. This policy covers these incidents whether they are accidental, intentional, on duty, off duty, or criminal; however, it is not meant to cover unintentional traffic crashes and may be modified based upon the circumstances and investigative needs determined by a Subdivision Commander or the Chief of Police.

### II. PROCEDURE

### A. RESPONDING TO A SCENE

- 1. Initial Patrol Bureau responsibilities:
  - a. Officers shall render the scene safe and account for all possible suspects and victims, including having the involved officers check themselves for injuries. After the suspects are secured or known to have left the scene, render first aid / request medical assistance as needed and notify a supervisor.
  - b. Officers shall promptly obtain public safety information from the officer(s) involved in the incident. The public safety interview shall be limited to obtaining outstanding suspect information, approximate number and direction of any shots fired, perimeter of the incident scene, identity of known or potential witnesses, and identity of injured parties. If practicable, the officer conducting the public safety interview shall record the information obtained in writing while the interview is occurring.
  - c. Officers shall immediately act on the public safety information to render aid as needed and secure evidence, suspects, and witnesses.
  - d. Officers shall establish inner and outer crime scene perimeters, initiate the crime scene log, limit entry into the inner perimeter to those responsible for providing first aid and to the investigators assigned to the case, and provide the initial assessment to responding officers, supervisors, and detectives. No other persons shall be permitted

- into the crime scene area with the exception when a walk through is done at the direction of the investigating detective.
- e. Should an officer require transport for treatment, he/she should be accompanied by another officer. Suspects and witnesses transported for medical treatment should be accompanied by officers, if available, or met at the hospital as soon as possible.
- f. All officers that are required to submit reports to aid in the investigation will submit them to the investigating detective by the end of the officer's shift unless permission is granted by that same detective.

### 2. Patrol Bureau supervisor responsibilities:

a. After the public safety questions have been asked, the officer in-charge shall separate the involved officers if there are more than one, direct the officer(s) to a nearby sequestered location away from public and media view, and issue the following or like directive:

I advise you to not discuss this incident with anyone, including your supervisors and other officers, prior to the arrival of investigators, with the exception of your legal representative, spouse, clergy, or medical professional.

- 1). One officer or supervisor should be sequestered with only one other officer. A union representative should be used if one is present. If not, assign an available officer. It is preferred that the assigned officer / supervisor not be an involved officer, or was present or has knowledge of the incident. The job of this assigned officer is to be present, provide aid to the officer involved, and ensure that the involved officer does not discuss the case with anyone except those individuals identified above. This officer will also observe the weapon involved and ensure the condition of the weapon remains the same until an official exchange occurs.
- b. Make an initial determination on the size and number of crime scenes. Ensure crime scene security is established by taping off the area, limiting access to investigators only, and ensuring that a crime scene log is being kept. Review and adjust as needed. Ensure the perimeter is adequately staffed.
- c. Once the scene is safe and secure, the supervisor on scene shall direct officers involved in the incident and those managing the scene to turn off their body worn cameras (BWC's) unless attempting to record statements of the subject of the deadly force, other suspects or eyewitnesses. Officers actively engaged in conflict with non-police personnel on the scene may activate their BWC's for that limited purpose. The first supervisor assuming control of the scene shall collect body worn cameras worn by involved officers and those present during the incident unless the officers are engaged in the above duties. If so, the BWCs should be collected as soon as the

- officers are relieved. All BWCs and shall be turned over to the investigators at the scene. Investigative review and handling of recordings will be in compliance with the BWC and related procedures.
- d. Establish a command post, announcing on the air its location, how it is identified and the preferred route to its location.
- e. Establish a traffic management plan that helps control the scene while also minimizing the impact of street closures on the community.
- Notify the shift commander.
- g. Brief investigators as they arrive on scene.

### 3. Shift Commander's responsibilities:

- a. Respond to the command post. It is recommended that signage is utilized, marking the post's location, and that responding resources are reminded of its position. The majority of the scene management should be completed and directed from the command post to centralize control and communications.
- b. Ensure continued crime scene security and traffic control by Patrol Bureau personnel.
- c. Coordinate the use and availability of Patrol Bureau personnel to assist the investigators.
- d. As soon as a Patrol Bureau shift commander learns that an officer or subject has suffered or caused a potentially serious injury, the Uniform and Investigative Subdivision commanders are to be notified. One of the subdivision commanders will notify the Chief of Police as soon as possible. If an officer suffers an injury that requires treatment at a hospital, the shift commander will determine if the injured officer is able to notify their family. If the injured officer is unable to make the notification, the shift commander will cause the family to be notified and arrange for the transportation of a spouse, significant other, or family member to the hospital.
- e. Once the scene is secure, the Shift Commander should move traffic related to the incident to a dedicated radio channel.
- 4. Investigative Subdivision personnel responsibilities:
  - a. The detective assigned to the desk will immediately notify the ranking detective supervisor on duty and brief him/her with the available information. Once known, the desk officer will announce on the appropriate dispatch channel the detective or DB supervisor who will be managing the initial investigation.

- b. The supervisor will send detectives to the scene of the incident and any other appropriate location, such as a hospital, and the ranking detective supervisor should go to the scene unless, in his/her judgement, the investigation would be better served by coordinating activities from the station.
- c. The investigators should respond to the command post and receive a briefing from the ranking officer on the scene. They should continue to assess the situation to ensure that the scene is secured and reassess as further information is received or developed during the course of the investigation.
- d. The detective supervisor on scene will determine the firearm make and model of any officer's weapon fired and direct a CSU detective to bring matching weapons and ammunition to the scene to be exchanged for those fired. The weapon exchange should preserve fingerprint and DNA evidence and should occur out of sight of the public if possible. Whenever possible the exchange and subsequent counting of ammunition should be made inside the CSU vehicle and recorded on BWC. The CSU detective will inspect and document the number of rounds in all magazines and the condition of the firearm from officers directly involved regardless of whether or not they fired their weapons.
- e. In any incident where a firearm was discharged and the involved officer believes that a malfunction of the weapon or its ammunition contributed to the discharge, the weapon and ammunition involved will be secured in its present condition immediately following the discharge without any further functioning of the weapon or removal of ammunition. It should be treated as evidence and the secured weapon put in the sixth floor vault at the earliest possible opportunity. Upon receipt of the weapon, a certified department armorer will examine the weapon to determine if any malfunction exists. This step will be witnessed by another department authorized armorer. The weapon will be test fired before it is returned to the officer.
- f. Assess the need for a search warrant to complete the processing of the scene.
- g. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) crime scene unit will process the crime scene unless unavailable or the length of time for their response to the scene could jeopardize the collection of evidence. In that case, the senior Detective Bureau Supervisor will make the determination that the Akron Police Crime Scene Unit (CSU) will process the scene.
- h. Ensure Crime Scene Unit detectives and BCI crime scene investigators are called to process the scene. Determine if BCI has the resources to process the entire scene or if CSU will be needed to assist. Determine if the original taped off area is adequate to ensure that evidence is not lost or contaminated and consider the need to tape off an adjacent area for media and officials.

- i. Determine the officers involved. An involved officer is defined as: Any officer that used force or directed another to use force. Mere presence of an officer at a scene does not make them an involved party to the use of force.
- j. Investigating detectives will conduct a voluntary walk-through with the officer(s) involved. This walk-through will be confined to a general briefing of what transpired prior to and during the incident. Detectives may ask questions, but more detailed questions will be reserved for the subsequent interview. One FOP representative and/or a FOP attorney shall be on scene to observe the walk-through. This is not meant to be an interrogation but rather an opportunity for the investigating detectives to more efficiently investigate and document the incident. Care should be taken not to cause undue stress to the involved officer(s) or to further contaminate the scene. Walk-throughs will not be recorded. Once the walk-through is completed, all non-assigned personnel shall vacate the crime scene until released by CSU.
- k. Determine additional personnel requirements. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to:
  - 1) The number of scenes to investigate and process.
  - 2) The number of officers, suspects, and victims involved.
  - 3) The number of witnesses to interview.
- 1. Ensure that the commander and assistant commander of the Investigative Subdivision have been notified and briefed. Discuss any need for additional detective or crime scene personnel. If additional personnel are required, begin with on duty detectives assigned to other units such as Juvenile or Crimes Against Property Unit. A call-in may be necessary when the incident occurs during the evening or nighttime hours. In all cases, at least one detective assigned to the Crimes Against Persons Unit will be called to the scene. If more than one additional detective is needed, the call-in will begin with the detectives assigned to work the next scheduled shift.
- m. The following notifications will be made immediately after the subdivision commanders are notified:
  - 1) Police Legal Advisor in accordance with their notification roster.
  - 2) Summit County Prosecutor in accordance with their notification roster.
  - 3) President of the FOP or next available Executive Board Member.
- n. Those in the next series of notifications will be granted access to the crime scene after BCI and/or CSU has finished processing the scene but before the scene perimeter is removed:

- 1) Public Information Officer (Should handle establishment of a media staging area, if needed, and consult with the investigative supervisor about information that may be shared before addressing the media. The Investigative Subdivision Commander or their designee shall be given the opportunity to review any press releases prior to their distribution.)
- 2) Office of Professional Standards and Accountability
- 3) Law Department
- 4) Training Bureau Commander
- 5) Police Auditor
- 6) Victim Assistance

#### B. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUING INVESTIGATION

- 1. The ranking on duty Detective Bureau supervisor:
  - a. Will provide a smooth transition and liaison between shifts and ensure that the responding Crimes Against Persons Unit detectives participate in the investigation and are kept informed.
  - b. Provide the supervisors from the next shift with a full briefing of the incident and status of the investigation.
  - c. Provide a draft copy of the incident report. All copies will be placed in the case file for the approval of the subdivision commander.

#### 2. Detective Bureau Commander:

- a. Coordinate and direct the continuing investigation and flow of information.
- b. Provide updated information to the chief, deputy chiefs, investigators on all shifts, and the Public Information Officer, as needed.
- c. Ensure the final case file is provided to the Summit County Prosecutors office for case review.
- d. Ensure that the involved officer's weapon(s) is returned/exchanged and that the Training Bureau Commander is notified.
- e. Ensure that a reasonable inventory of replacement weapons and ammunition is available in the DB vault.

### C. LEAVE, INTERVIEW, AND RETURN TO DUTY PROCEDURES

- 1. The Chief of Police shall place the involved officer(s) on administrative leave, with pay, pending completion of formal interviews. During such leave, officers will remain available, unless specifically excused by the Chief of Police.
- 2. Formal interviews will be scheduled and conducted by the Crimes Against Persons Unit detectives although it is preferred that the interview occur after twenty-four hours but within forty-eight hours of the incident, changing circumstances may dictate that the interview will occur before or after that time period. This decision is at the discretion of investigators.
- 3. Officers formally interviewed shall be provided a FOP shift representative, advised of their constitutional rights, and have access to counsel prior to and during questioning. They may cooperate with the criminal investigation; however, they are under no legal requirement to do so. Interviews of involved officers shall be recorded.
- 4. Officers will return to duty at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

### D. INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER INVOLVED INCIDENTS REQUESTED BY OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

- 1. The on duty shift commander will respond to the scene and notify the Investigative Subdivision commander or their designee.
- 2. The Investigative Subdivision commander, or their designee, will determine if this procedure should be activated.

By Order Of,

enneth R. Ball, II

Chief of Police

Date



### CITY OF AKRON, OHIO

# **POLICE DIVISION**

### **KENNETH R. BALL II, CHIEF OF POLICE**

| NUMBER                                      | EFFECTIVE DATE    | RESCINDS                  |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|
| P-2019-057                                  | November 13, 2019 | P-2008-057 Issued 3-31-08 |
| SUBJECT                                     |                   | ISSUING AUTHORITY         |
| Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) Procedure |                   | Chief Kenneth J Ball II   |

### I. POLICY

Conducted electrical weapons are excellent tools to assist in controlling combative, violent, or potentially violent individuals. Only authorized personnel may carry and utilize such equipment and must do so in conformance with departmental training, procedures, and any applicable laws. Each application of a CEW is considered a use of force.

### II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Less Lethal Force—Any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force that involves physical effort to control, restrain, or overcome the resistance of another.
- B. Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) Less lethal devices designed to affect a subject's motor and sensory nervous system by means of deploying battery powered electrical energy intended to cause involuntary muscle contractions and override an individual's voluntary motor responses. The device may also be used in a drive stun mode, whereas the energy is localized and only affects the sensory nervous system.

#### III. PROCEDURE

### A. OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- 1. Only officers who have satisfactorily completed the approved training course shall be authorized to carry a CEW. This includes annual recertification training.
- 2. Officers will carry the CEW in a department approved holster and consistent with department training.
- 3. Officers will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all of their issued equipment is functional and in good working order. This includes protecting the CEW from exposure to moisture, dirt, and unreasonable risk of theft.
- 4. To ensure the device is working properly, the CEW should be subjected to a pre-shift "spark test" consisting of a full, five-second cycle.

5. Officers shall be issued a minimum of one spare cartridge as a backup in case of ineffective deployment, cartridge failure, or the need for redeployment. The spare cartridge shall be stored and carried in a manner consistent with the departmental training program.

#### B. DEPLOYMENT

- 1. The CEW may not be used:
  - a. As an investigative tool to threaten or attempt to gain information from a person;
  - b. On subjects in restraints unless physical resistance must be overcome or to prevent escape;
  - c. On subjects who passively resist and are not reasonably perceived as an immediate threat or flight risk;
  - d. Intentionally to an open wound;
  - e. As retaliation for physical or verbal abuse;
  - f. In an unprofessional manner;
  - g. To demonstrate the device on any person without the authorization of the Training Bureau.
- 2. The CEW can be used in conjunction with department approved chemical defense sprays.
- 3. The probes, wires and the individual's body that is between the probes should be avoided during the cycle as the officer may receive some of the same energy as the individual.
- 4. CEWs may be used:
  - a. When it is in compliance with the Akron Police Department's use of force procedure.
  - b. To "paint" the subject with the CEW's laser in an attempt to gain compliance of the subject where resistance, assault, or violence is reasonably anticipated.
  - c. Special considerations may be used when the officer has a reasonable belief that deployment may cause serious injury or death from situational hazards including falling, drowning, or igniting a potentially explosive or flammable material or substance.

5. Unintentional cartridge discharge or lost cartridge – The officer shall submit a BlueTeam lost or damaged property report detailing the circumstances surrounding the deployment to his supervisor for investigation. The completed investigation will be forwarded to the CEW training instructor.

### 6. Use of CEW on animals:

- a. Under some circumstances, a deployment of a CEW may provide a safer option for officers to handle incidents involving animals.
- b. A CEW may be deployed on an animal that presents a threat or that needs to be captured for reasons of public peace or safety, preservation of property, or other legitimate purposes.
- c. When feasible, officers should consider having an Animal Warden available so that tools such as "dog poles" can be used in conjunction with a CEW deployment to improve the chances of successfully controlling an animal.

#### C. OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Upon use of the CEW with the drive stun technique or with cartridge deployment, the officer shall:
  - a. Request the response of a supervisor.
  - b. Request the response of an EMS Unit.
  - c. Follow the Akron Police Department's use of force procedure.
- 2. Individuals who have been subjected to the CEW or the probes shall be treated as follows:
  - a. Once in custody, the officer shall advise paramedics or the emergency department staff that the person has been subjected to the CEW and relate the approximate time the action occurred. If the probes penetrate the skin, the puncture sites shall also be brought to the attention of the officer's supervisor, paramedics or emergency department staff. Only emergency department staff or EMS may remove CEW probes.
  - b. If the probes are no longer attached to the skin, the individual may be released to the custody of the officer after an EMS evaluation.
  - c. An officer shall obtain medical clearance from EMS or the emergency department physician.
- 3. Complete a BlueTeam Use of Force Report and an Incident Report.

4. The CEW probes are considered hazardous and shall be discarded in the biohazard container that all EMS units carry. Officers must use protective gloves when handling the discharged probes.

### D. SERGEANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Respond to scene.
- 2. Ensure that EMS is responding.
- 3. Complete a Supervisor's BlueTeam Resisting Arrest/Use of Force Checklist on every use, whether it is the drive stun technique or cartridge deployment. When practical, photos shall be taken to document all contact points on the individual.
- 4. When any CEW deployment results in serious physical harm or death of an individual, ensure that the entire CEW and all parts of the cartridge are kept intact and are tagged into evidence.
- 5. Follow the Akron Police Department's use of force procedure.

By Order Of,

Konneth R. Ball II

Chief of Police

Date NOV 13, 2019



### CITY OF AKRON, OHIO

# POLICE DIVISION

### KENNETH R. BALL II, CHIEF OF POLICE

| NUMBER<br>P-2019-031             | EFFECTIVE DATE<br>April 22, 2019 | RESCINDS<br>P-17-031 Issued 10-1-17 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| SUBJECT                          |                                  | ISSUING AUTHORITY                   |
| Body Worn Camera (BWC) Procedure |                                  | Chief Kenneth R. Ball II            |

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide department guidelines for use, management, storage, and retrieval of digital multimedia recorded by BWC or through the use of the Axon Capture mobile application.

### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Akron Police Department that BWC's shall be utilized to capture citizen contacts between APD personnel and members of the community which they serve. When using the Axon Capture mobile application, personnel shall treat all captured media as if it were captured by BWC and shall be subject to all related portions of this procedure.

### III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Body Worn Camera (BWC) Equipment worn by an Akron police officer or supervisor that captures both audio/video upon activation and includes at a minimum a camera, microphone and recorder.
- B. Buffering Mode After the BWC is powered on, it continuously loops/records 30 seconds of VIDEO only.
- C. Record Mode When the BWC is placed in the record mode, it records both audio and video until the BWC is turned off or placed into buffering mode. Once placed into the record mode, the 30 seconds of pre-event video captured in the buffering mode will be secured along with the video/audio captured in the record mode.
- D. Citizen Contact Consensual and non-consensual interactions with the public that involve police service and/or enforcement including but not limited to, Terry stops, traffic stops, field interviews, detention, requests for service and prisoner transports.
- E. BWC Unit The officer(s) responsible for inventory, control, operational maintenance and dissemination of all BWC requested media.
- F. Multimedia Audio/Video recordings captured by the BWC or using the Axon Capture application on department issued mobile devices.

- G. Evidence.com The online web based digital storage facility accessed at <a href="https://akronpdoh.evidence.com">https://akronpdoh.evidence.com</a>. This virtual warehouse stores the digitally encrypted data in a secure environment accessible to personnel based on their security clearance.
- H. Evidence Sync Desktop or Mobile Data Browser (MDB) application that allows BWC users to view captured media from their BWC via a USB cable. Officers may also tag, categorize, add notes and/or report numbers to captured media and will allow for upload to their Evidence.com account.
- I. Evidence Transfer Manager (ETM) -- The docking unit used to recharge the BWC and upload the encrypted captured media. The ETM then transfers the encrypted data digitally into Evidence.com.
- J. Axon Capture A mobile application that may be used on department issued mobile devices. The application allows a user to create digital evidence and transmit it directly to Evidence.com. Digital media obtained using this application is the property of the Akron Police Department and is subject to all provisions of this procedure.
- K. Authorized Detective Akron Police Department personnel who have direct involvement with a criminal case. Authorized detectives may have the need to require officers with BWC's to return to Buffering Mode for the integrity and efficiency of their case.

### IV. PROCEDURE

### A. General Information:

- BWC's allow for additional documentation of police and citizen encounters. BWC's can also assist in documenting property inventories, collecting evidence, and with the prosecution of criminal cases.
- 2. Officer and citizen safety should always be given priority over activating BWC media. Officers may encounter a situation requiring immediate action to prevent injury, destruction of evidence or escape. In these situations, officers should activate the BWC if doing so does not place them or others in danger; otherwise, officers shall activate the BWC at the first available opportunity after the immediate threat has been addressed.
- 3. All captured media from a BWC is the property of the Akron Police Department (APD). Accessing, copying, or releasing any captured media for any purpose, other than law enforcement related purposes, is strictly prohibited and subject to discipline. Officers are prohibited from copying and/or releasing any recordings for their personal use and are prohibited from using a recording device (such as a phone camera or secondary video and audio camera) to record media from a BWC.
- 4. Officers shall not edit, delete, copy, alter, or destroy captured BWC media.

5. Any officers not assigned a BWC by the department may purchase their own BWC with approval from the BWC Unit. Any individually purchased BWC must be entered into the system by the BWC Unit and any media produced from the BWC will be the property of the APD. Any officers who purchase their own BWC must adhere strictly to this procedure.

### B. Officer Responsibilities

- Successfully complete mandatory training provided by the Akron Police Department to familiarize themselves with the BWC system and departmental procedure prior to its use and receive additional training as needed.
- 2. Officers are responsible for all BWC equipment assigned to them and shall complete and submit a Lost, Damaged or Inoperable Property report if their BWC becomes damaged, lost, stolen, or is inoperable. Officers are to send an email to the BWC Unit at BWC@akronohio.gov, stating the status of the equipment and the report number.
- Notify a supervisor as soon as practical when a BWC was not placed into Record Mode in compliance with this procedure.
- 4. At the start of a tour of duty (and in absence of an emergency situation or call that may prevent an officer from doing so) officers shall:
  - a. Inspect the BWC and related equipment to ensure there are no visible or obvious signs of damage.
  - b. Secure the BWC to the approved uniform on the outermost garment. The BWC is not to be covered by the uniform coat or any other part of the police uniform.
  - c. Place the BWC in a location that will most likely capture the officer's field of view.
  - d. Activate the BWC by turning on the power button.
- 5. During each tour of duty, maintain the BWC in the Buffering Mode so it can easily be placed into Record Mode as required by this procedure.
- 6. Place the BWC into Record Mode prior to taking any police related action including but not limited to:
  - a. All calls for service that are likely to result in a citizen contact. These calls will include both officer callouts and dispatched calls for service.
  - b. Other events, situations and circumstances, including but not limited to, armed encounters, acts of physical violence, civil disturbances, and criminal or suspicious activity.
  - c. At the onset of a vehicle pursuit; when practicable and safe to do so.

- d. Any situation in which an officer believes captured media may be of use.
- 7. After the BWC unit is placed in Record Mode, officers may advise the citizen(s) that the BWC is on and recording audio and video.
- 8. Officers are permitted to turn off the Record Mode (and enter back into the Buffering Mode) during the following situations:
  - a. When the citizen contact has concluded.
  - b. When the call has concluded.
  - c. When ordered to do so by a supervisor or authorized detective. The supervisor or authorized detective shall document in an action taken or other document the reason(s), and which officers were required to deactivate their BWC's.
  - d. When entering a private home or building where consent of the owner or person with authority to give consent to the entrance is required and that person expressly declines to permit video and/or audio recording inside the home or building. If possible, officers shall request that the citizen step outside.
    - 1. This will not apply to entrance where consent is not required or no longer required once inside the home/building, including entrances related to a search warrant, arrest warrant, domestic violence calls, and emergency or extenuating circumstances.
  - e. When interacting with a victim or witness who refuses to cooperate if the BWC is recording. If practical and reasonable, the officer shall record the victim or witness requesting the BWC be turned off while still in the Record Mode.
  - f. When requested by a patient, on-scene emergency medical personnel or medical staff to ensure protected health information and/or treatment is not recorded. If practical and reasonable, the officer shall record the patient or medical personnel requesting the BWC to be turned off while still in the Record Mode.
  - g. During any investigation when an officer believes the confidentiality of a witness should be protected.
  - h. Officers conducting an investigation may stop the audio recording only to discuss their investigation. Prior to stopping the audio recording, the officer should indicate that the audio is being stopped. Once the need for muting the BWC is complete, the officers will re-activate the audio recording until the completion of citizen contact.
- 9. When necessary, officers shall make case files in Evidence.com. Officers shall share their cases via Evidence.com with County and Municipal prosecutors upon request without unnecessary delay.

- 10. Notify their supervisor and the BWC Unit immediately when evidence is uploaded into Evidence.com that may be sensitive in nature including but not limited to, juveniles in a state of nudity or information related to an internal investigation.
- 11. At the end of a tour of duty:
  - Inspect the BWC and related equipment to ensure there are no visible or obvious signs of damage.
  - b. Place the BWC into the ETM slot for uploading of captured media and charging of the unit.
- C. The BWC will not be used in the Record Mode during the following, unless capturing evidence related to activities described in section III B(7) of this procedure:
  - 1. Divisional administrative investigations without the expressed consent of the commanding officer of the involved incident.
  - Internal non-investigative staff meetings, hearings, and encounters with other officers, supervisors, command staff, Police Legal Advisors, or city employed civilians assisting the police.
  - 3. Conversations of fellow officers or civilian employees without their knowledge during routine, non-enforcement related activities.
  - 4. Any place where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy (dressing rooms, restrooms, etc.).
    - a. This does not apply to those situations where an individual is in police custody, an officer is making an arrest or conducting an investigation in those areas of privacy.
  - 5. To capture images of confidential informants or undercover officers, unless requested by the undercover officer, their supervisor, or commanding officer.
  - 6. Conversations of citizens and/or officers (i.e. administrative duties, court, community meetings, etc.).
  - 7. Sporting events or other entertainment venues (venues or organizations may have prohibitions against recording the event or filming within the facility).
- D. Officers are encouraged to use Axon View or Evidence Sync to categorize and tag captured media prior to uploading.
  - 1. Add report numbers (if applicable), traffic ticket numbers (if applicable), category/retention period and location to captured media.

- 2. Add notes or flag captured media to assist investigative units with use of the captured media (when applicable).
- E. Evidence Sync shall only be used from city-owned computer equipment. Officers shall not install Evidence Sync on non-city owned computers or devices.
- F. Alternately, once captured media is uploaded, officers shall, as soon as practical:
  - 1. Log into their Evidence.com account and add report numbers (if applicable), traffic ticket numbers (if applicable), category/retention period and location to captured media. If multiple categories apply, place the captured media into the category with the longest retention period (see III R category and retention schedule).
- G. Officers assigned a BWC are encouraged to review BWC media prior to completing any investigative reports.
- H. Officers shall surrender their BWC to their supervisor or to an officer of the Investigative Subdivision responsible for investigating an officer involved death or serious injury (P-17-68).
- I. No officer shall be required to give a statement if there is a body camera video until the officer and the officer's representative are afforded the opportunity to view the video(s) first. (See article VII, section I of Collective Bargaining Agreement).
- J. Secondary Employment:
  - Use of the BWC while working authorized secondary employment is recommended but not required.
  - 2. Officers using the BWC at secondary employment shall:
    - a. Adhere to all BWC requirements.
    - b. Return the BWC to the ETM after the completion of their secondary employment to immediately upload and tag any captured media; unless authorized by a supervisor to do so at a later time.
    - c. Ensure the BWC is charged and any captured media is uploaded to Evidence.com prior to the start of their next tour of duty.
- K. Use of the BWC while on a SWAT call or Mobile Field force shall be done under the direction of the Incident Commander.

### L. Media Storage:

- 1. All captured media will be uploaded from the ETM or Axon Capture and stored at Evidence.com according to the City of Akron records retention schedule.
- 2. Officers may access BWC media via Evidence.com and view it to assist with investigations or reports.
- M. Hospital Guard Officers assigned to hospital guard shall place the BWC into record mode:
  - 1. When visitors, other that the prisoner's attorney, as identified by the Hospital Guard Procedure (P-2010-044), are present in the room.
  - 2. When there is any police interaction with the prisoner other than simple observation.

### N. Supervisor Responsibilities

- 1. Ensure officers assigned a BWC are complying with this procedure.
- 2. Keep a BWC non-record log for all officers on their shift who are assigned a BWC.
- 3. Document in the BWC non-record log any incident in which an officer notifies the supervisor that a BWC should have been activated, but was not.
- 4. Review all captured media related to a complaint or incident resulting in a supervisory investigation.
- Document the existence of captured media in the Supervisors checklist and/or Complaint checklist including the following;
  - All officers on scene and their ID numbers.
  - b. All captured media reviewed.
  - c. Any discrepancies between the captured media and reports.
- Make regular and random reviews of recordings created by officers under their command.
  - a. Confirm proper use of the equipment.
  - b. Confirm compliance with this procedure.
  - c. Identify areas where additional training or guidance is needed.
  - d. Move captured media into the correct categories, if needed.

- 7. Ensure officers who complete a Lost, Damaged or Inoperable Property report on their BWC notify the BWC Unit.
- 8. When notified that an officer is unable to complete the categorizing or tagging of captured media, determine if immediate attention is required or if the task can be completed at the start of the officer's next work day.
- 9. Contact the BWC Unit for pick up or drop off of any BWC.

### O. Office of Professional Standards and Accountability Responsibilities

- 1. Review captured media related to a complaint or incident resulting in a supervisory investigation.
- 2. On a monthly basis, conduct documented random reviews of BWC media of citizen contacts to ensure that they are used in accordance with this procedure and to identify areas in which additional training or guidance is required. These reviews will be shared with the appropriate shift commanders.

### P. BWC Unit Responsibilities

- Produce BWC media as required for law enforcement purposes, court purposes, as requested by the Chief of Police or designee, for public records requests and/or for training purposes.
- 2. Assist with questions about the BWC program and related procedure.
- 3. Be the point of contact with the BWC vendor.
- 4. Ensure new accounts are created as needed in Evidence.com, existing accounts are kept up to date, and proper account authority is maintained.
- 5. Maintain spare BWC's as needed.
- 6. Review BWC media for any potential changes needed to the BWC program.
- 7. Review this procedure annually and make changes as needed.
- 8. Review BWC data and conduct a documented annual analysis of the data, frequency, and use.
- Q. Requests to view or receive copies of captured media.
  - Captured media needed for law enforcement purpose other than evidence requests from prosecutors shall be requested through the BWC Unit.

- Officers are encouraged to flag a video that they feel may have training value to the BWC Unit.
- Officers are strictly prohibited from allowing persons outside of law enforcement to view or listen to any media captured by the BWC without prior authorization from the Chief of Police or designee.
- 4. Unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police or designee, all video or audio recordings shall NOT be disseminated outside of law enforcement.
- 5. Officers shall direct all public requests for redacted captured media to the Record Room, or directly to the City of Akron Law Department by email to publicrecords@akronohio.gov.
- R. All requests to exhibit, display, or demonstrate the BWC to outside parties shall be directed to the Chief's Office.
- S. Officers shall use the following categories to assist in maintaining and filing captured BWC media.
  - 1. Non-Evidentiary/Administrative/Found Property/Pink Slip: 60 Day Retention
  - 2. Minor Misdemeanor: 270 Days Retention
  - 3. Misdemeanor: 116 Week Retention
  - 4. Use of Force Complaints: Until Manually Deleted
  - 5. Non-Violent Felony: 324 Week Retention
  - 6. Violent Felonies: 21 Year Retention
  - 7. Pending Review: Until Manually Deleted
  - 8. Training Use Only: Until Manually Deleted
  - 9. Title 29: Until Manually Deleted
  - 10. Restricted-OPSA: Until Manually Deleted
  - 11. Rape, Murder, Sexual Battery, Sudden Death: Until Manually Deleted
- 12. Uncategorized: Until Manually Deleted
- 13. Firing Log: Until Manually Deleted
- 14. Sealed Records: Until Manually Deleted

By Order Of,

Kenneth R. Ball, II

Chief of Police

Date APAIL 30, 2019