

# **Final Evaluation Report:**

## **Alton Body-Worn Cameras**

Award: 15PBJA-21-GG-04457-BWCX

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The following report represents the authors' views and do not necessarily reflect those of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Alton, the Alton Police Department or Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alton received a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to implement a body worn camera for its officers in 2021. The grant provided a 50% match for the purchase of the cameras, related equipment and storage as well as associated personnel cost.

Grant implementation was completed by late 2023 with all of its officers and jailers equipped and trained in the use of body worn cameras. A new policy, approved by BJA, complemented the implementation and guides officer use of the cameras

As part of the award, the Center for Crime Science and Violence Prevention produced this evaluation which examined changes in use of force statistics as well as conducted before and after surveys of Alton Police officers and the Alton public.

1. Analysis of use of force statistics revealed no substantial changes with BWC implementation.
2. Public survey results show widespread support for BWCs with little change in survey items before and after implementation.
3. Officer surveys also show substantial support for BWC, but do show some significant positive changes post implementation, including:

General benefits to officers and public

Positive effects on police work

Positive outlook on ease of use of equipment

In sum, the implementation of BWC in Alton has been successful with some measurable positive outcomes above and beyond early positive views by both the public and officers.

## INTRODUCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

In 2021, the Alton Police Department (APD) was awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance award to implement body-worn cameras (BWC). The grant provided a 50% match for the purchase of cameras, cloud storage, training and other implementation costs for the roughly 60 officers and correctional staff at the APD. Because the state of Illinois had already mandated the phased implementation of BWCs, the grant helped Alton stay compliant with the requirements of the SAFE-T act (<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/101/PDF/101-0652.pdf> ).

The grant award Alton received also included the city of East St. Louis, which separately implemented its portion of the award. East St. Louis PD, however, showed no interest in participating in the evaluation, therefore the results presented here only pertain to Alton and APD. APD worked with its TTA provider to develop a solid BWC policy prior to implementation (see appendix A). Given that this grant was awarded during the height of the COVID-19 epidemic, which constraint supply chains, the delivery of the camera equipment was somewhat delayed and not completed until 2022. Upon receipt of the equipment the department integrated the system controllers, which control the data flow of BWCs to APDs own IT network allowing the data to be uploaded seamlessly to its cloud server. Prior to full implementation and distribution of BWC to officers, the department and vendor tested equipment and began training its officers in the policies and usage of the equipment. By August 2023, the department had fully implemented cameras across all its uniformed officers and jailers and completed training all personnel.

The implementation and oversight of the project was led by Chief Ford, with technology assistance from Jarvis Swope. The evaluation for the project was conducted by the Center for Crime Science and Violence Prevention (CCSVP), led by Dr. Dennis Mares.

## EVALUATION APPROACH

The evaluation for this project focuses on two items: (1) Survey results from the public and officers and (2) Analysis of use of force data. Both components can give some indication of the efficacy of BWCs, however we would argue that item (2) is not necessarily an indication of success or failure. Rather we would argue that in a well-functioning police agency, BWCs should not make a large difference in how force is applied. After all, a large and sudden drop in use of force incidents may indicate that officers may have been applying force in situations where it may have not been necessary. We believe the aim of BWCs is not necessarily behavioral change in officers, particularly if they conduct themselves in a manner expected from law enforcement, rather the point of BWCs is to improve accountability of officers/department and provide transparency to the public. In fact, we believe that BWCs may in fact also lead to greater accountability of the public when individuals make unwise and/or illegal choices in encounters with law enforcement officers. Arguably BWCs may provide a two-way street of laying bare the real events and actions of interactions. In this context, transparency is perhaps the most important signal to officers and the public, indicating actions will not remain in the shadows.

## IMPACTS ON USE OF FORCE BY OFFICERS

We received and analyzed use of force incidents reported by APD. Overall it should be noted that as one might expect given the small size of Alton, we only counted 168 incidents in which force was used between January 2020 and June 2024, which averages to about 37 incidents per year, or one incident per 675 residents. It should also be noted that 2020 and 2021 were impacted by COVID and police protests and both those may explain why those years had lower uses of force reported at 31 and 27 respectively. The following years (2022 and 2023) saw, respectively 47 and 51 uses of force, whereas the first six months of 2024 only led to recording of 12 such incidents.

Of these 168 incidents, 73 (44%) involved soft hands only, 68 (41%) involved taser deployment, the most serious use of force reported by APD, and the remainder involved an intermediate type of force (hard hands, K9, restraints etc); no officer-involved shootings were reported during the study period (although one incident occurred after the data for this report were collected which led to the shooting injury of an officer and killing of K9 as well as suspect). The types of incidents that preceded the use of force vary quite a bit although aggravated assaults (12%) and domestic incidents (8%) are most common. Traffic stops were a rather unusual precedent to use of force, only cited as the precursor in 2% of all use of force incident.

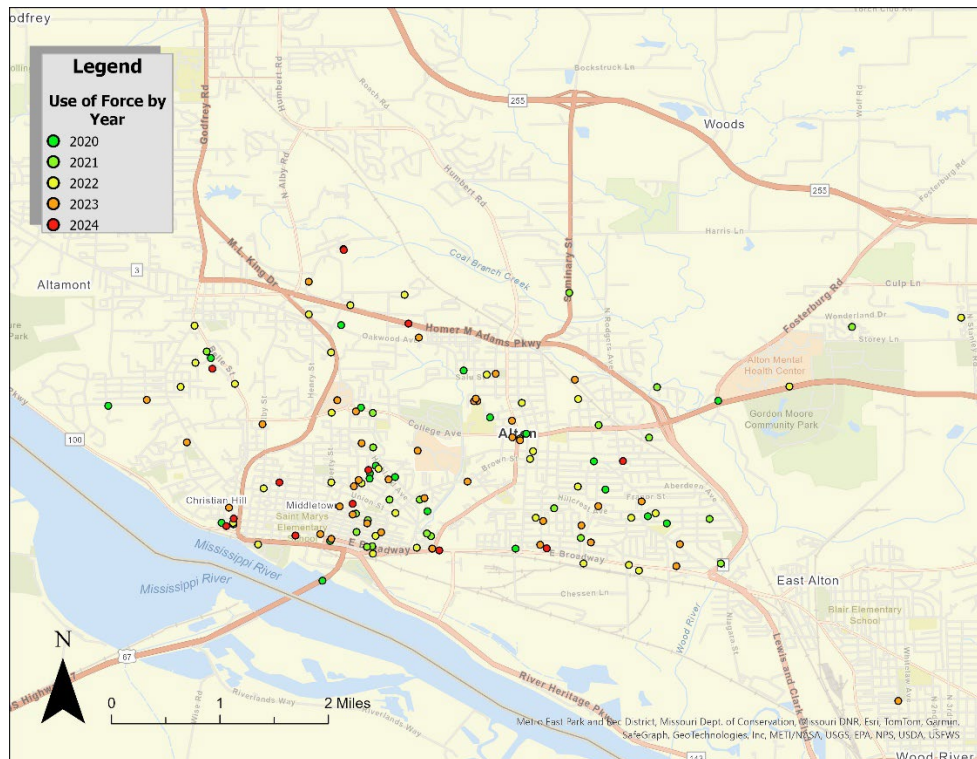


Figure 1. Use of force incidents by year and location.

The geographic concentration of use of force incidents in Alton seems primarily aligned along population concentrations with no distinct concentration patterns beyond the areas near downtown Alton (see figure 1 above). The modal address was 1700 East Broadway, the Alton jail location, with 17 incidents, which is probably not too surprising as Alton houses a substantial jail population, including suspects in federal cases, which is somewhat unique.

The mean age for community members who were involved in use of force incidents is nearly 34, which is -not surprisingly- slightly younger than the mean age of Alton residents (38)<sup>1</sup>. With respect to race/ethnicity we found some racial imbalance in use of force against

<sup>1</sup> [https://data.census.gov/profile/Alton\\_city,\\_Illinois?g=160XX00US1701114](https://data.census.gov/profile/Alton_city,_Illinois?g=160XX00US1701114)



Black residents. Whites, for example, make up approximately 64% of Alton’s population but only make up 38% of individuals who were subjected to police use of force. This disparity held across the different types of force applied. While such disparities are not uncommon, they are not necessarily evidence of implicit or explicit bias as minority residents tend to be less economically secure, less likely to receive care for mental illnesses and often suffer from other social issues. These contextual factors increase the risk for involvement in delinquency and/or victimization, which naturally would raise the likelihood of police contacts. Women made up about 18% of individuals who were subjected to police use of force, which again is not a surprising statistic and mirrors women’s participation in violent offenses.

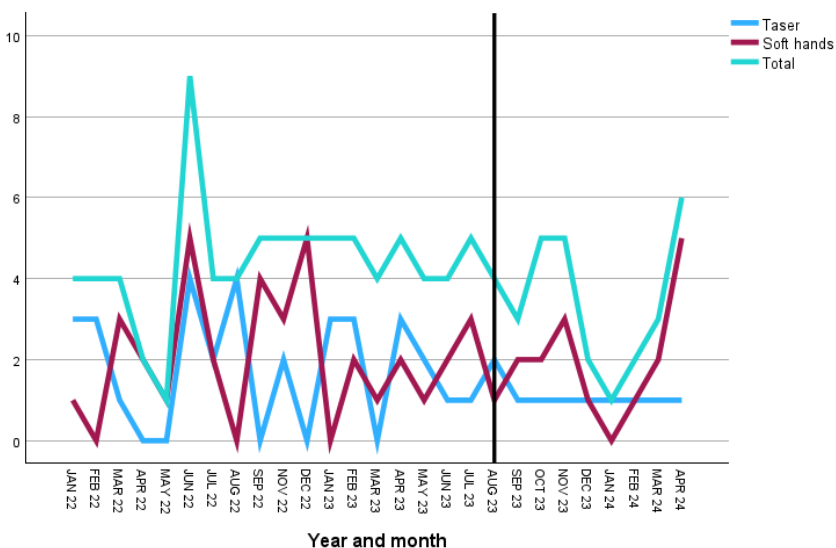


Figure 2. Use of force incidents by type of force Jan 2022-May2024

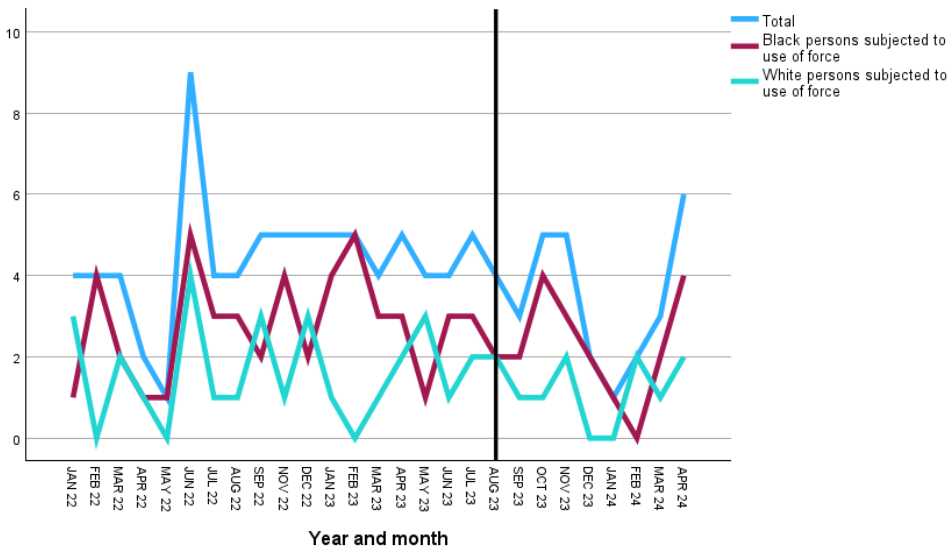


Figure 3. Use of force by race of community member.

Exploring the periods before and after implementation of the BWC shows little change in the use of force by APD officers. While there is a distinct dip in early 2024, this temporary reduction is likely more a reflection of either random noise, or a reduction in offending rather than a true change in use force. Comparing trends by race (see figure 3), underlines these conclusions as no discernable change in patterns can be seen. Admittedly, in a small police department with relatively few reported use of force incidents, true changes may go undetected in raw numbers. To explore this issue in greater detail we aggregate the use of force statistics before and after BWC implementation and determine the mean monthly number of uses of force. While these numbers do show slightly lower averages post implementation, it is important to indicate that we only have about 9 monthly averages for the post-implementation period (and primarily during colder months which generally see less law enforcement activity). Independent t-test

also show no statistically significant results; effectively there is no evidence for any substantial true statistical change in use of force by APD officers.

	<b>Body-worn cameras implemented</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
Black persons subjected to use of force	No	18	2.7778	1.30859
	Yes	9	2.2222	1.30171
White persons subjected to use of force	No	18	1.6111	1.19503
	Yes	9	1.2222	.83333
Total	No	18	4.3889	1.57700
	Yes	9	3.4444	1.66667
Soft hands	No	18	2.0556	1.55193
	Yes	9	1.8889	1.45297
Taser	No	18	1.7778	1.43714
	Yes	9	1.1111	.33333
Other uses of force	No	18	.5556	.85559
	Yes	9	.4444	.72648

*Table 1. Use of force before and after BWC implementation*

The fact that we are unable to observe reductions in police use of force can mean a host of things. It may indicate that, indeed, there simply was no change, which would not be unexpected. It likely may also indicate the number of observations is still too limited. We would encourage APD to continue to monitor its use of force statistics closely for any changes. Regardless, the results indicate that substantial change in use of force is unlikely, and that any effects are likely to be relatively minor.

## SURVEYS

### SURVEY RESULTS I: PUBLIC VIEWS ON BWC

CCSVP conducted a pre- and post-implementation surveys among the Alton Public. The community survey was distributed on APD's Facebook page between June and July 2022 and again after implementation from June through July 2024. A total of 267 completed surveys were received in the first wave, but only 60 during the second wave. We were somewhat puzzled by the drop in respondents between the two waves, but it is important to recognize that policing issues were much more at the forefront of public and media attention in 2022.

Both surveys were distributed on the Police Department's Facebook site, which provided a link to the external online survey (Qualtrics). While such distribution method does not likely provide a random sample of the Alton public, and probably favors positive views of police, our primary aim is to observe before and after changes, not determine how people in Alton viewed police more generally.

Informed consent was obtained from all participants (see survey instrument in the appendix) and data were collected anonymously. Institutional Review Board permission was obtained prior to survey distribution. Respondent were asked filtering questions to exclude minors and people who reported not living, working or studying in Alton; in both cases answering affirmative to either of those question would point the survey to exit without going through the any items and collecting substantive data; these survey responses were excluded from analysis and associated raw data were deleted.

Because the survey was distributed by the department it is important to explore the demographics of the survey takers to determine how representative the results may be. It is clear that the overwhelming majority of survey takers of both waves and who listed their race/ethnicity, self-identified as whites (see table 2). These numbers are well above the reported community census data (69.9%); in our survey only ~5% identified as African American as opposed to the reported census percentage of 24.3%. The survey therefore does not likely represent the entire Alton community. Both with respect to race and age, however, the pre and post surveys show relative similarities over the two waves, indicating that the survey should be able to detect any changes in public views on BWCs.

	PRE	%	POST	%
<b>18 - 24</b>	25	9.4	7	11.7
<b>25 - 34</b>	70	26.2	12	20.0
<b>35 - 44</b>	68	25.5	12	20.0
<b>45 - 54</b>	52	19.5	11	18.3
<b>55 - 64</b>	29	10.9	10	16.7
<b>65 - 74</b>	14	5.2	5	8.3
<b>75 - 84</b>	3	1.1	3	5.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	261	97.8	60	100.0
<b>MISSING</b>	6	2.2	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	267	100.0	60	100.0

*Table 2. Age distribution of public survey*

	PRE	%	POST	%
<b>WHITE</b>	225	84.3	47	78.3
<b>AFRICAN AMERICAN</b>	15	5.6	3	5.0
<b>HISPANIC</b>	1	.4	1	1.7
<b>OTHER</b>	0	0	1	1.7
<b>PREFER NOT TO SAY</b>	26	13.3	8	13.3
	267	100.0	60	100.0

*Table 3. Race/ethnicity of public survey takers.*

To help us understand better how the sample compared up to other surveys on policing we ask two questions that gauged community members view on police. One question asked about the respondent's view on police in general, and one asked specifically about their views on the Alton PD. In our survey 67.8% (Pre) and 76.7% (Post) were positive about law enforcement (responding they viewed police in general as doing a 'great' or 'ok' job), whereas 30.3%(pre) and 21.7%(post) indicated police needed at least some reform. This indicates that our sample has become a bit more supportive of policing in general, which tracks with national polling (<https://news.gallup.com/poll/647303/confidence-institutions-mostly-flat-police.aspx>) . For the Alton PD specifically, the numbers even more positive, with about 80 percent of both pre and post surveys reporting they viewed Alton police positively. Again, viewing your own city's police more positive than police in general is a common finding, further suggesting that these results do show some concordance with other surveys.

#### WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE POLICE IN GENERAL?

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>I BELIEVE POLICE DO A GREAT JOB</b>	132	49.4	27	45.0
<b>I BELIEVE POLICE DO AN OK JOB</b>	49	18.4	19	31.7
<b>I BELIEVE POLICE NEED REFORMS</b>	47	17.6	7	11.7
<b>I BELIEVE POLICE NEED MAJOR REFORMS</b>	34	12.7	6	10.0
<b>I HAVE NO PARTICULAR OPINION ABOUT THE POLICE IN GENERAL</b>	5	1.9	1	1.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	267	100.0	60	100.0

Table 4. ITEM: Opinion of police.

In sum, while our public survey is not quite as representative of the community as we would hope, the sampling composition is consistent across pre/post and reflects national views about police as well as recent shifts in those views. We believe that the survey results should be able to capture significant shifts in how the community views the implementation of BWCs.

#### ALTON OFFICERS SHOULD (CONTINUE TO) USE BODY-WORN CAMERAS.

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	206	77.2	53	88.3
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	38	14.2	3	5.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	10	3.7	0	0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	6	2.2	3	5.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	7	2.6	1	1.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	267	100.0	60	100.0

Table 5. ITEM: Police should use BWC?

Survey respondents are overwhelmingly supportive of BWC, with over 90% being positive toward the technology, both before and after implementation. These numbers likely reflect the widespread public support for BWCs in general. To discern where this support may originate, we look at a few additional questions.

Although public opinion was positive toward BWCs as improving trust with the public (81% positive prior to implementation), after implementation enthusiasm was a bit more tempered (59% positive), indicating that perhaps expectations for BWC as change-agents were too high. Nonetheless, the majority of respondents remained neutral or positive about what BWCs may do for police-community relations and trust.

**THROUGH USE OF BWCS, POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PUBLIC TRUST IN POLICE WILL/HAS BECOME:**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>MUCH WORSE</b>	4	1.5	4	6.8
<b>SOMEWHAT WORSE</b>	5	1.9	5	8.5
<b>ABOUT THE SAME</b>	41	15.4	15	25.4
<b>SOMEWHAT BETTER</b>	103	38.6	22	37.3
<b>MUCH BETTER</b>	114	42.7	13	22.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	267	100.0	59	100.0

Table 6: ITEM: community relations and trust in police.

When examining the impact of BWCs on actual interactions with the public, both pre and post surveys show a reasonable congruence, although like the prior item, a slight drop in enthusiasm is visible. Seventy-seven percent of respondents were positive about improving interactions, whereas 69% agreed after BWCs were implemented. Interestingly the proportion of people



who thought BWCs would be deleterious for interactions with the public approaches zero in the second wave of surveys.

**THROUGH THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS, THE CONDUCT OF OFFICERS IN INTERACTIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAS BECOME:**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>MUCH WORSE</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>SOMEWHAT WORSE</b>	2	.8	0	0
<b>ABOUT THE SAME</b>	59	22.2	18	30.5
<b>SOMEWHAT BETTER</b>	98	36.8	21	35.6
<b>MUCH BETTER</b>	107	40.2	20	33.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	266	100.0	59	100.0

Table 7: ITEM: Conduct of officers.

Looking at how BWCs may impact community member behavior, the public again shows slightly less positivity after implementation. Whereas less than 4% of the public expected BWC to lead to worse behavior among community members, after implementation that number increased to just over 10%. Similarly, the proportion of people who anticipated much better behavior dropped almost by half from just over 25 percent to just under 14 percent.

**THROUGH THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS, THE BEHAVIOR OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHEN INTERACTING WITH OFFICERS HAS BECOME:**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>MUCH WORSE</b>	5	1.9	1	1.7
<b>SOMEWHAT WORSE</b>	5	1.9	5	8.5
<b>ABOUT THE SAME</b>	99	37.2	24	40.7
<b>SOMEWHAT BETTER</b>	90	33.8	21	35.6
<b>MUCH BETTER</b>	67	25.2	8	13.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	266	100.0	59	100.0

Table 8: ITEM: Officer conduct.

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Police-community relations and public trust in police will/has become better-worse:***	Before	267	4.19	.870
	After	59	3.59	1.131
Through the use of body-worn cameras, the behavior of members of the public when interacting with officers has become: *	Before	266	3.79	.909
	After	59	3.51	.898
	Before	266	4.17	.793

Through the use of body-worn cameras, the conduct of officers in interactions with members of the public has become: N.S.	After	59	4.03	.809
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\*: p<.05 \*\* p<.01 \*\*\* p<.001 n.s.: Not Significant

*Table 9: Independent t-tests*

Indeed, item averages (see table 9) show relative reductions for all three items, with trust and behavior of community members also attaining statistical significance. In other words, sentiment about the actual impacts of BWCs is somewhat tempered post implementation.

When we asked members of the public how they feel about reporting a crime to an officer wearing a BWC, results are once again largely positive, with 73% reporting positively before implementation and 83% after implementation, indicating a slight increase in favorability (although not statistically significant).

**I WOULD FEEL COMFORTABLE REPORTING A CRIME TO AN OFFICER WHO IS RECORDING ME WITH A BODY-WORN CAMERA:**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>EXTREMELY UNCOMFORTABLE</b>	10	3.7	4	6.7

<b>SOMEWHAT UNCOMFORTABLE</b>	17	6.4	2	3.3
<b>NEITHER COMFORTABLE NOR UNCOMFORTABLE</b>	44	16.5	4	6.7
<b>SOMEWHAT COMFORTABLE</b>	38	14.2	10	16.7
<b>EXTREMELY COMFORTABLE</b>	158	59.2	40	66.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	267	100.0	60	100.0

Table 10. ITEM: comfortable reporting crime

When asking about the relative benefits of BWC and whether they help the public or police more, the answers clearly indicate that the vast majority (over  $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of respondents believe that BWCs can/do help both the public and police, with only a fraction of respondents indicating nobody is assisted by their use. These results are effectively stable across both waves of surveys.

#### WHO BENEFITS THE MOST FROM BWCS?

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>THE POLICE/OFFICERS</b>	24	9.0	7	11.7
<b>THE PUBLIC/CITIZENS</b>	19	7.1	3	5.0
<b>BOTH THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC WILL BENEFIT</b>	210	78.7	47	78.3

<b>NOBODY BENEFITS FROM BODY-WORN CAMERAS</b>	13	4.9	2	3.3
<b>I AM NOT SURE</b>	1	.4	1	1.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	267	100.0	60	100.0

Table 11. ITEM: Who Benefits from BWCs

The next three items all focus on oft-touted reasons for implementing BWCs, namely their potential to reduce use of force, minimize officer misconduct and making the public feel more at ease with police. In all question (pre and post) the modal answer was “somewhat likely” but post-implementation responses show an increase in the percentage of people choosing this answer, however the changes are relatively small and not statistically significant, indicating fairly robust support for these contentions. This of course, does not mean BWCs actually accomplish this, just that the public believes they may.

**THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS IS HELPING REDUCE POLICE USE OF  
FORCE?**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>EXTREMELY UNLIKELY</b>	14	5.3	6	10.0
<b>SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY</b>	20	7.5	8	13.3
<b>NEITHER LIKELY NOR UNLIKELY</b>	90	33.8	11	18.3

<b>SOMEWHAT LIKELY</b>	98	36.8	31	51.7
<b>EXTREMELY LIKELY</b>	44	16.5	4	6.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	266	100.0	60	100.0

Table 12: ITEM: Reduces use of force?

**THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS IS HELPING REDUCE POLICE MISCONDUCT?**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>EXTREMELY UNLIKELY</b>	11	4.1	3	5.0
<b>SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY</b>	7	2.6	4	6.7
<b>NEITHER LIKELY NOR UNLIKELY</b>	62	23.3	8	13.3
<b>SOMEWHAT LIKELY</b>	110	41.4	37	61.7
<b>EXTREMELY LIKELY</b>	76	28.6	8	13.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	266	100.0	60	100.0

Table 13: ITEM: Reduces misconduct?

**THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS IS MAKING THE PUBLIC FEEL MORE AT EASE WITH POLICE?**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>EXTREMELY UNLIKELY</b>	14	5.3	1	1.7
<b>SOMEWHAT UNLIKELY</b>	9	3.4	7	11.7
<b>NEITHER LIKELY NOR UNLIKELY</b>	58	21.8	10	16.7

<b>SOMEWHAT LIKELY</b>	115	43.2	32	53.3
<b>EXTREMELY LIKELY</b>	70	26.3	10	16.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	266	100.0	60	100.0

*Table 14. ITEM: More at ease with police?*

In sum, our public surveys show a large degree of support for the use of BWC by APD. This support also does not vary much with respect to implementation. While we cannot claim that our sample was a representative cross-cut of Alton given both the way respondents were recruited and the self-reported proportions of race of survey takers, we believe that the general message that the Alton public is supportive of BWC is probably justified. In addition, and despite the large differences in total responses between the two survey waves, results -for the most part- appear quite stable, which would indicate that the actual implementation of BWCs in this community had relatively little impact on how respondents see the impact of BWCs.

## SURVEY RESULTS II: OFFICER VIEWS ON BWC

Turning to the officer surveys<sup>2</sup>. The sampling of officers is more complete, with 47 officers completing the survey before implementation and 50 doing so after implementation. Not only do these represent the majority of the roughly 60 officers working for APD, the pre and post samples are also consistent for average employment time at APD (12 years) with the majority

<sup>2</sup> Surveys were based on questionnaire developed in: Gaub, J. E., Choate, D. E., Todak, N., Katz, C. M., & White, M. D. (2016). Officer Perceptions of Body-Worn Cameras Before and After Deployment: A Study of Three Departments. *Police Quarterly*, 19(3), 275-302. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1098611116653398>.

of respondents in both waves working in patrol (62% and 70% respectively). Given that nearly all APD officers completed the survey we feel very confident that the results should reflect those of the APD in general. Whether these results translate to other police departments is difficult to fully assess.

To gauge support of BWCs we asked several questions. The first question is whether BWC help officers submit better evidence. Results indicate that about 9/10 officers agree that BWC have a positive impact on evidence submission and these results did not change appreciably with implementation.

**WHEN OFFICERS WEAR BODY CAMERAS, IT IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF EVIDENCE THEY CAN SUBMIT.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	27	57.4	27	54.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	17	36.2	17	34.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	2	4.3	4	8.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	1	2.1	2	4.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100	50	100.0

*Table 15. ITEM: Quality of evidence?*

Interestingly when officers are asked if BWCs make their job easier we see a positive shift after implementation with more officers strongly agreeing and substantially fewer indicating they



disagree; an independent t-test confirms that the survey means significantly changed ( $p=.025$ ), indicating that officers have become significantly more positive about the impact of BWC on their jobs.

**WHEN OFFICERS WEAR BODY CAMERAS, IT MAKES THEIR JOB EASIER.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	3	6.4	9	18.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	18	38.3	19	38.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	16	34.0	19	38.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	8	17.0	1	2.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	2	4.3	2	4.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

*Table 16: ITEM: Job easier?*

We next asked several questions about how BWCs may influence community members' behavior toward police when officers are equipped with BWCs. In all those instances the consensus is that citizen behavior (cooperation, aggressiveness, and resistance) is not particularly impacted; these opinions are consistent before and after implementation. For example, when asked if BWC may reduce the number of complaints against police only around a quarter of officers indicated cameras may make a difference. In other words, officers are not particularly convinced wearing a BWC will affect community members' behavior.

When asked about how BWCs may protect officers from false complaints there is only minor variation between pre and post implementation responses (although not statistically significant).

**THE USE OF BODY CAMERAS DECREASES THE NUMBER OF CITIZEN COMPLAINTS AGAINST OFFICERS.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	3	6.4	2	4.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	11	23.4	13	26.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	13	27.7	18	36.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	12	25.5	9	18.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	8	17.0	8	16.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

*Table 17. ITEM: Decreases complaints?*

Similarly, we asked several questions focused on how officer behavior may be influenced by the presence of BWCs. Although we can see a slight reduction in the proportion of officers believing that BWCs may reduce an officer's willingness to use force, most of the change in position led to a growth in the proportion of officers who essentially had no clear opinion on the effects of BWC on this idea (Neither agree nor disagree).

#### WEARING A BODY CAMERA REDUCES AN OFFICER'S WILLINGNESS TO USE FORCE.

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	5	10.6	3	6.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	16	34.0	14	28.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	10	21.3	17	34.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	13	27.7	12	24.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	3	6.4	4	8.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 18. ITEM: Reduces willingness to use force?

While questions about changes in police behavior generally showed no substantial changes, significant changes did occur in a question about how BWCs may impact police discretion. Here the mean significantly shifted .5 points (from 2.57 to 3.04,  $p=.026$ ), indicating greater disagreement with the statement after implementation. In other words, officers anticipated the impact on discretion to be more severe than it likely turned out. This does not mean that officers do not find BWCs constraining to their discretion; numerically more officers still indicate that BWCs may impact discretion, however the results post implementation are more evenly distributed across answer categories, showing a tempering of the anticipated impact.

#### WHEN WEARING A BODY CAMERA, AN OFFICER WILL FEEL LIKE THEY HAVE LESS DISCRETION

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	7	14.9	1	2.0

<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	22	46.8	21	42.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	7	14.9	9	18.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	6	12.8	13	26.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	5	10.6	6	12.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 19. ITEM: Less discretion?

The next group of questions asked about the user-friendliness of the camera and related equipment. For example, the broadest question in that set (ease of use) shows the general pattern we see for these questions with responses prior to implementation showing an overall neutral stance, flipping to a more positive view post-implementation. Results are statistically significant ( .000) for all but one question, indicating that reality likely exceeded officers expectations on ease of use of the cameras.

**WHEN AN OFFICER WEARS A BODY CAMERA, THE EQUIPMENT IS EASY TO USE.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	2	4.3	17	34.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	11	23.4	26	52.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	23	48.9	6	12.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	7	14.9	1	2.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	4	8.5	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 20. ITEM: Equipment easy to use?

The only question not statistically significant may highlight a technical issue or limitation. In this case, dissatisfaction with battery life grew after implementation ( $p=.089$ ). Pre implementation we see a fairly even distribution about anticipated battery life, centered around the neutral point. Post implementation, however, it appears that the majority of officers believes that the battery life inadequate. While this is perhaps not a large concern, it is a practically important question as it would be extremely undesirable if footage is not recorded if cameras cannot make it through an officer's shift.

**THE BATTERY LIFE OF THE BODY CAMERA IS ADEQUATE.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	4	8.5	4	8.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	6	12.8	12	24.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	23	48.9	5	10.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	11	23.4	19	38.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	3	6.4	10	20.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 21. ITEM: Battery life?

The next group of questions explores the general benefits of BWCs through the perspective of officers. All three questions (co-workers, police and citizens) indicate an improvement post implementation, indicating that officers may have been slightly skeptical of the devices, but grew more positive after using them. These results are statistically significant ( $p=.000$ ,  $.037$ , and

.020 respectively). Importantly responses that indicate respondents either somewhat or strongly disagree with the statements in the questions almost completely drops to zero for all three questions. In addition, respondents indicating they strongly agree with the statements also substantially increase. Combined these results indicate that the impact of BWCs may have been more positive for the public, and police than officers anticipated.

**THE USE OF BODY CAMERA EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY MY COWORKERS.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	1	2.1	12	24.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	17	36.2	28	56.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	17	36.2	10	20.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	10	21.3	0	0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	2	4.3	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 22. ITEM: coworkers

**THE POLICE BENEFIT FROM BODY CAMERAS.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	16	34.0	23	46.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	23	48.9	25	50.0

<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	6	12.8	2	4.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	1	2.1	0	0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	1	2.1	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 23. ITEM: police benefit?

#### THE CITIZENS BENEFIT FROM BODY CAMERAS.

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	8	17.0	17	34.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	26	55.3	28	56.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	6	12.8	4	8.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	3	6.4	0	0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	2	4.3	1	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	45	95.7	50	100.0

Table 24. ITEM: Public benefits?

The next four questions ask about specific improvements (job satisfaction, job performance, training and officer safety). Although all questions saw some improvement post BWC implementation, none were statistically significant, indicating that any improvements were not

very robust. So even though the implementation once again appears to have been more positive than anticipated the changes are by no means dramatic.

**WHEN AN OFFICER WEARS A BODY CAMERA IT WILL IMPROVE THEIR JOB SATISFACTION.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	2	4.3	3	6.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	3	6.4	8	16.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	25	53.2	27	54.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	12	25.5	10	20.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	5	10.6	2	4.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 25. ITEM: Job satisfaction?

**BODY CAMERAS WILL IMPROVE OFFICER TRAINING.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	10	21.3	15	30.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	21	44.7	23	46.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	10	21.3	10	20.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	4	8.5	1	2.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	2	4.3	1	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 26. ITEM: Officer training?



**BODY CAMERAS IMPROVE THE OVERALL JOB PERFORMANCE OF AN OFFICER.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	2	4.3	10	20.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	20	42.6	15	30.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	19	40.4	19	38.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	3	6.4	4	8.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	3	6.4	2	4.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 27. ITEM: Job performance?

**BODY CAMERAS INCREASE OFFICER SAFETY.**

	Pre	%	Post	%
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	4	8.5	7	14.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	11	23.4	14	28.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	16	34.0	15	30.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	11	23.4	10	20.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	5	10.6	4	8.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 28. ITEM: Officer safety?

The remaining questions asked officers to indicate if the implementation of BWCs is good for the department and the profession more broadly. The question on whether BWCs should be expanded to other departments showed fairly positive answers pre implementation, but improved post implementation, indicating that officers see BWCs as a broader tool for improving policing. The change between pre and post implementation, however, was not statistically significant.

**I THINK THAT THE USE OF BODY CAMERAS SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS (INCLUDING STATES WHERE IT IS NOT MANDATED)**

	Pre		Post	
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	15	32.6	19	38.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	8	17.4	16	32.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	19	41.3	14	28.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	1	2.2	1	2.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	3	6.5	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	46	100.0	50	100.0

Table 29. ITEM: BWCs in other departments?

Interestingly and despite the fact that a growing number of officers believes that implementing BWCs was the right course of action, about a third of officers continues to feel that

implementation was perhaps not the best solution. This is a bit strange as the number of officers that strongly favored implementation more than doubled post implementation.

**I THINK THAT THE ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ADOPTING BODY CAMERAS WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO (REGARDLESS OF STATE MANDATE).**

	Pre		Post	
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	9	19.1	19	38.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	8	17.0	7	14.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	14	29.8	7	14.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	7	14.9	11	22.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	9	19.1	6	12.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 30. ITEM: BWCs was the right thing?

Comparing the advantages and disadvantages of BWCs was already viewed positively prior to implementation, 90% of officers believes that BWC adoption on the whole is a net positive. These numbers solidly increased post implementation as well, further lending credence to the notion that BWC implementation was a net positive; this result is statistically significant ( $p=.005$ )

**THE ADVANTAGES OF POLICE DEPARTMENTS ADOPTING BODY CAMERAS WILL OUTWEIGH  
THE DISADVANTAGES.**

	Pre		Post	
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	13	27.7	21	42.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	16	34.0	24	48.0
<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	13	27.7	4	8.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	2	4.3	1	2.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	3	6.4	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100

Table 31. ITEM: Advantages outweigh disadvantages?

Much like the prior item, the appropriateness of using department funding for cameras was already largely seen as positive prior to implementation. Implementation, however pushed the positive up and the negatives down, leading to a significant positive change ( $p=.006$ )

**BODY CAMERAS ARE AN APPROPRIATE USE OF DEPARTMENT FUNDING.**

	Pre		Post	
<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>	15	31.9	21	42.0
<b>SOMEWHAT AGREE</b>	14	29.8	24	48.0

<b>NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE</b>	9	19.1	4	8.0
<b>SOMEWHAT DISAGREE</b>	6	12.8	1	2.0
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	3	6.4	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	100.0	50	100.0

Table 32. ITEM: BWC are appropriate funding?

## CONCLUSIONS

The implementation of BWCs in Alton can be qualified as successful. Not only did APD overcome the technical and training challenges of implementing a new technological tool, the reception of the actual use of the cameras was seen as overwhelmingly positive by both the public and officers. Indeed, in several categories we are able to detect improvements post implementation in our surveys. Especially the officer survey, which strongly suggest that officers may have been a bit hesitant prior to implementation saw improving outlooks post implementation. This is probably not a very surprising finding, however, as BWCs were mandated by Illinois as an accountability tool, which implicitly expresses distrust in officer action and may have led to some pause among officers. The reality is, of course, that BWCs provide accountability not just for the officers but also for anyone the officers may interact with and as such may actually help officers by providing a more accurate narrative of these interactions.

What is also not extremely surprising is that the use of cameras by APD has not meaningfully changed use of force incidents in the department. APD is one of the leading agencies in the St. Louis metropolitan region and has a long history of professional policing. In an agency in which force is applied equitably and justly one would probably not anticipate any large changes when implementing BWCs as officer misbehavior is likely already minimized through hiring practices, SOPs and training. This is not to say use of force levels are not changeable, however, camera surveillance is likely not effecting much change on how officers interact with the public when there are multiple other layers of officer surveillance and tracking

already in place. This also does not make BWCs superfluous because they can provide valuable and objective insight in police-public interactions and they can be used to gain a complete picture of cases in which force is used and should still be helpful on the adjudication of cases in dispute.

While this research, we believe, represents a fair and accurate portrayal of the implementation of BWC there are some limitations. Even though our sampling of APD officers was near-complete our survey of the Alton public was definitely not a random sample and oversampled whites -which are more likely to be supportive of police. Nonetheless, the public support for BWCs in Alton did reflect what can be seen at the national level and the lack of substantial changes in public responses across our two survey waves would suggest that support for BWCs has not appreciably changed with its implementation. Another issue is the overall low level of use-of-force incidents at APD. While, of course, it is good that APD officers do not often use force against the public, it does make measuring changes difficult as statistical models have difficulty detecting small, but potentially meaningful, changes in use of force. We therefore feel fairly confident in our conclusion that if there have been changes in use of force they likely were minimal.

A couple of recommendations did emerge from our study. One, a lot of post-implementation responses from the officers' survey indicate that battery-life of the cameras may be an issue. We encourage the PD to further examine this with its officers and if indeed the cameras do not hold enough charge for a full shift, we would encourage the PD to talk to its vendors to explore solutions. Two, while APD tracks use of force incidents and complaints

against the department it is not clear if those data are subjected to much long-term analysis. We would encourage the department to establish its own way to track these data with particular eye to detecting personnel that engages in a high number of force incidents. While a high number of use-of-force incident is not necessarily indicative of problem behavior, it may simply be a result of being assigned a higher risk role, or being more conscientious about reporting these incidents, it is important to acknowledge that problematic officers can also fly under the radar if such numbers are not tracked. We therefore would recommend that APD considers analyses of use-of-force incidents by officer for longer periods as part of an Early Warning System. Not only could more thorough analysis help identify officers who may engage in more force than expected, it can also -perhaps more importantly- help identify areas in which general improvement or training is needed. For example, we found that traffic stops do not represent a meaningful proportion of use-of-force incidents in Alton, but rather that assaults and domestic situations represent a large chunk of these incidents. Knowing when force is most likely used will help APD find the most suitable training opportunities for its officers.



## APPENDIX

### APPENDIX A - COMMUNITY SURVEY

#### Consent to Participate in a Survey

Thank you for considering to be part of this important community survey on body-worn cameras in Alton, IL. This study is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) funding award 15PBJA-21-GG-04457-BWCX, which also provided funds for Alton to purchase body-worn cameras. Part of the funding is reserved for the evaluation of the body worn camera program of which this survey is part. The evaluation is independently executed by the Center for Crime Science and Violence Prevention at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The study will evaluate the effectiveness of Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program by the Alton Police Department including the perceptions of community members on body-worn cameras.

#### Research Procedures

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked about your views on the use of body-worn cameras in your community and its potential effect on policing in your community. As you may have heard, Alton PD has outfitted and trained all its officers (including correctional staff) with body-worn cameras. On this survey you will be asked about your knowledge of the Alton PD and its BWC program. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and no identifying information about you will be collected. All data collected during this study will be treated as confidential and stored in a secure place, accessible only by the university researchers. The Alton Police Department will never know how you individually answered these questions but will receive combined results of all participants, such as the percentage of community members that support body-worn cameras.

#### Risks and Benefits

We believe that your participation carries limited risks. For example, you may have had negative experiences with police officers/departments in the past and this survey could trigger negative emotions. There are also potential benefits to you and your community. Your participation may help us better understand how body-worn cameras are viewed in your community and can help guide us in our efforts to develop better police accountability and transparency. The overall findings of this survey will be communicated to the Alton PD and the funding agency (BJA).

## Your Participation

Your participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. You may choose not to answer specific questions or exit the survey at any point, without consequences of any kind. We do hope you choose to complete the survey in its entirety as our understanding of community members' views of these important issues remains limited. If you have questions about the study, please feel free to reach out at any time to Dennis Mares (dmares@siue.edu or 618-650-5114). If you have any questions about your rights or any other concerns, you may also contact the SIUE Institutional Review Board at (618) 650-3010 or irbtraining@siue.edu. Approved by IRB (SIUE) on May 20th, 2022 protocol #1646

## Giving of Consent

By taking the survey, you are indicating that you are at least 18 years old, have read and understood this informed consent statement and agree to participate in this research study. Please note that this survey is intended solely for Alton residents, or people that go to school or work in Alton.

## Q1

Instructions Your honest opinions and perceptions are important to our research team. Please read questions and answer options in their entirety and select the answer(s) that best represents your views about each statement and question.

Do you live in, attend school, or work in

Alton?

- ☐ No (1)
- ☐ Yes (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Instructions Your honest opinions and perceptions are important to our research team. Please read... = No

Q5 Are you 18 years or older?

- ☐ No (1)
- ☐ Yes (2)

Skip To: End of Survey If Are you 18 years or older? = No

Q7 Alton officers should continue to use body-worn cameras.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q8 Police-community relations and public trust in police has become:

- ☐ Much worse (1)
- ☐ Somewhat worse (2)
- ☐ About the same (3)
- ☐ Somewhat better (4)
- ☐ Much better (5)

Q9 Through the use of body-worn cameras, public safety has become:

- ☐ Much worse (1)
- ☐ Somewhat worse (2)
- ☐ About the same (3)
- ☐ Somewhat better (4)
- ☐ Much better (5)

Q10 Through the use of body-worn cameras, officer safety has become:

- ☐ Much worse (1)
- ☐ Somewhat worse (2)
- ☐ About the same (3)

- ☐ Somewhat better (4)
- ☐ Much better (5)

Q11 Through the use of body-worn cameras, the behavior of members of the public when interacting with officers has become:

- ☐ Much worse (1)
- ☐ Somewhat worse (2)
- ☐ About the same (3)
- ☐ Somewhat better (4)
- ☐ Much better (5)

Q12 Through the use of body-worn cameras, the conduct of officers in interactions with members of the public has become:

- ☐ Much worse (1)
- ☐ Somewhat worse (2)
- ☐ About the same (3)
- ☐ Somewhat better (4)
- ☐ Much better (5)

Q13 Officers should be required to use body-worn cameras to record during (check all that apply):

- ☐ An arrest (1)
- ☐ Search of a home (2)
- ☐ Search of a person on the street (3)
- ☐ Search of a vehicle (4)
- ☐ When police think they will have to use force (5)
- ☐ Any traffic stop (6)
- ☐ An interview with a witness at the crime scene (7)
- ☐ Any time police speak to someone (8)

- ☐ Other specify below (9)

Q14 Please indicate during which other circumstances officers should use their body-worn camera

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Q15 I would feel comfortable reporting a crime to an officer who is recording me with a body-worn camera.

- ☐ Extremely uncomfortable (1)
- ☐ Somewhat uncomfortable (2)
- ☐ Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable (3)
- ☐ Somewhat comfortable (4)
- ☐ Extremely comfortable (5)

Q16 An officer who approaches a person in a public space, like in a store or on the sidewalk, should be required to tell that person that the camera is recording?

- ☐ As soon as the officer approaches that person (1)
- ☐ As soon as possible, without compromising safety (2)
- ☐ The officers should not have to tell that person (3)
- ☐ I have no strong opinion about this either way (4)

Q17 An officer who enters a person's home should be required to tell that person that the camera is recording:

- ☐ As soon as the officer enters (1)
- ☐ As soon as possible, without compromising safety (2)
- ☐ The officers should not have to tell that person (3)
- ☐ I have no strong opinion about this either way (4)

Q18 If a person asks an officer to turn on a camera, the officer should:

- ☐ Immediately turn on the camera (1)
- ☐ Be allowed to turn it on only if necessary to record evidence (2)
- ☐ Be allowed to ignore the request (3)
- ☐ I have no strong opinion about this either way (4)

Q25 Who benefits most from the use of body-worn cameras?

- ☐ The police/officers (1)
- ☐ The public/citizens (2)
- ☐ Both the police and the public will benefit (3)
- ☐ Nobody benefits from body-worn cameras (4)
- ☐ I am not sure (5)

Q26 The use of body-worn cameras is helping reduce police use of force?

- ☐ Definitely false (11)
- ☐ Probably false (12)
- ☐ Neither true nor false (13)
- ☐ Probably true (14)
- ☐ Definitely true (15)

Q28 The use of body-worn cameras is helping reduce police misconduct?

- ☐ Definitely false (6)
- ☐ Probably false (7)
- ☐ Neither true nor false (8)
- ☐ Probably true (9)
- ☐ Definitely true (10)

Q27

The use of body-worn cameras is making the public feel more at ease with police?

- ☐ Definitely false (6)
- ☐ Probably false (7)
- ☐ Neither true nor false (8)
- ☐ Probably true (9)
- ☐ Definitely true (10)

Q19 If a person has a recorded interaction with an officer wearing a body-worn camera, the Alton Police Department should be required to show that person the footage upon request.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q20 An officer should be permitted to view a recording from their own body-worn camera:

- ☐ Anytime, including before writing a report or giving a sworn statement (1)
- ☐ Anytime, unless there is an incident involving the use of force, in which case the officer must first write a report (2)
- ☐ Only after first writing a report about the incident, regardless whether force was used by the officer (3)
- ☐ An officer should not be allowed to review their recordings (4)
- ☐ I have no strong opinion either way (5)

Q21 If a person has an interaction with an officer wearing a body-worn camera, and a non-involved party (for example: a reporter or advocacy group) requests the footage, the department should be required to give it to them?

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q22 If a body-worn camera captures a high-profile incident of interest to the public, the department should make the footage public:

- ☐ As soon as possible (1)
- ☐ After the department completes an internal investigation (2)
- ☐ At the end of any court case or judicial proceeding (3)
- ☐ Never (4)
- ☐ I have no strong opinion either way (5)

Q25 What is your opinion of the police in general (not just Alton)?

- ☐ I believe police do a great job (1)
- ☐ I believe police do an ok job (2)
- ☐ I believe police need reforms (3)
- ☐ I believe police need major reforms (4)
- ☐ I have no particular opinion about the police in general (5)

Q23 What is your opinion of the Alton police department in particular?

- ☐ I believe they do a great job (1)
- ☐ I believe they do an ok job (2)
- ☐ I believe the department needs reform (3)



- ☐ I believe the department needs major reform (4)
- ☐ I have no particular opinion about the department (5)

Q30 Are there any other issues -related to body-worn cameras at the Alton police department- that you would like to share, please let us know.

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Q29 A few years ago we provided Alton community members with a similar survey about body-worn cameras; do you remember if you took that survey at that time (it's totally ok if you don't remember, we all get bombarded with surveys all the time)?

- ☐ No (18)
- ☐ Maybe (19)
- ☐ Yes (20)

Q24 What best describes your age?

- ☐ Under 18 (1)
- ☐ 18 - 24 (2)
- ☐ 25 - 34 (3)
- ☐ 35 - 44 (4)
- ☐ 45 - 54 (5)
- ☐ 55 - 64 (6)
- ☐ 65 - 74 (7)
- ☐ 75 - 84 (8)

- ☐ 85 or older (9)
- ☐ Prefer not to say (10)

Q26 Which race or ethnicity best describes you?

- ☐ White (1)
- ☐ Black or African American (2)
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native (3)
- ☐ Asian (4)
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino (5)
- ☐ Other (6)
- ☐ Prefer not to say (7)

## APPENDIX B – OFFICER SURVEY

### Informed Consent statement

You are being asked to participate in a research study funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant no: 15PBJA-21-GG-04457-BWCX) and conducted by faculty from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. This study is part of the grant that funded the purchase of body-worn cameras (BWCs) at the Alton PD.

The purpose of this survey is to understand your attitudes about the use of body-worn cameras survey will take only 10 to 15 minutes of your time, but can provide important feedback and information about the implementation of body-worn cameras in your department.

### Your Participation

All of your anonymous responses will be kept in a password secured data file that only the researcher (Dennis Mares) has access to and data are used only for research purposes. Your individual responses will never be seen by anyone at the Alton Police Department. The department will only see the findings in aggregated form (such as the total percentage of officers that believe body-worn cameras may make it easier to prosecute domestic violence offenders). Your participation is voluntary. You are free to choose not to participate or to stop participating at any time without consequences or penalty. You may also decline to answer specific questions without consequences.

## Risks and Benefits

We believe that your participation carries limited risks. For example, you may have had negative experiences with technology in the past and this survey could trigger negative emotions. There are also potential benefits to you and your department. Your participation may help us better understand how body-worn cameras are viewed by you and your colleagues and can help guide us in our efforts to develop better police accountability and transparency. The overall findings of this survey will be communicated to the Alton PD and the funding agency (BJA). Results may also be published in the academic literature.

## Questions about the Study?

If you have questions about the study, please feel free to reach out at any time to Dennis Mares (dmares@siue.edu or 618-650-5114). If you have any questions about your rights or any other concerns, you may also contact the SIUE Institutional Review Board at (618) 650-3010 or irbtraining@siue.edu. Approved by IRB (SIUE) on May 20th, 2022 protocol #1646

By clicking the button below, you acknowledge:

Your participation in the study is voluntary. You are at least 18 years of age. You are aware that you may choose to terminate your participation at any time for any reason.

☐ I consent, begin the survey (1)

Q3 Instructions. The Alton Police Department has formed a partnership with SIUE to study officers' attitudes toward police use of body-worn cameras (or BWCs) and their effects on contacts with citizens. This survey asks for your opinions about the use and effectiveness of BWCs in police work. Your honest opinions and perceptions are important to our research team. You may see questions you have answered before, but that survey was sent out before BWCs were deployed in Alton. This survey specifically seeks your input about your opinions on the cameras after having used them for some time! Please select the answer that best represents your feelings about each statement and question.

When officers wear body cameras, they will spend less time filling out forms and other types of paperwork.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q4 When officers wear body cameras, they will have a more accurate account of what has transpired during an encounter with the public.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q5 When officers wear body cameras, it improves the quality of evidence they can submit.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q7 When officers wear body cameras, it makes their job easier.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q8 When wearing the body camera, I know that the prosecutor's office will be easy to work with when submitting video evidence.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)

- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q9 Body cameras make it easier to prosecute domestic violence offenders.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q10 Evidence gathered from a body camera will help prosecute cases involving domestic violence when the victim is unwilling to testify.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q11 Citizens will be more cooperative once they become aware that an officer is wearing a body camera.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q12 Citizens will be more respectful once they become aware that an officer is wearing a body camera.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)

- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q13 Suspects are less likely to resist arrest when they become aware that the officer is wearing a body camera.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q14 Generally, people become less aggressive when they are aware that a body camera is being used.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q16 Having officers wear body cameras will hurt police-community relations.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q17 The use of body cameras decreases the number of citizen complaints against officers.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q15 When wearing a body camera, an officer is less likely to give warnings to citizens.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q18

When wearing a body camera, an officer will have fewer contacts with citizens.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q19 When wearing a body camera, an officer will feel like they have less discretion.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q20 When wearing a body camera, an officer will be more cautious in making decisions.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q21 When wearing a body camera an officer will act more professional.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q22 Wearing a body camera reduces an officer's willingness to use force.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q22 When an officer wears a body camera it is easy to locate and retrieve video for a specific incident if needed.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)



- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q23 When an officer wears a body camera, the equipment is easy to use.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q24 The body camera equipment is comfortable to wear.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q25 The battery life of the body camera is adequate.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q26 When an officer wears a body camera, it is easy to download data at the end of a shift.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)

- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q27 The use of body camera equipment has been well received by my coworkers.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q28 The police benefit from body cameras.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q29 The citizens benefit from body cameras.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q30 When an officer wears a body camera it will improve their job satisfaction.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)

- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q31 Body cameras will improve officer training.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q32 Body cameras improve the overall job performance of an officer.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q33 Body cameras increase officer safety.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q34 I think that the use of body cameras should be expanded to other departments (including states where it is not mandated).

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q35 I think that the Alton Police Department adopting body cameras was the right thing to do (regardless of state mandate).

- ☐ Strongly disagree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (4)
- ☐ Strongly agree (5)

Q36 The advantages of police departments adopting body cameras will outweigh the disadvantages.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q37 Body cameras are an appropriate use of department funding.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)

- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q38 There was significant resistance by officers to the use of BWCs.

- ☐ Strongly agree (1)
- ☐ Somewhat agree (2)
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree (3)
- ☐ Somewhat disagree (4)
- ☐ Strongly disagree (5)

Q40 How familiar are you with departmental policies that cover use of your body-worn camera?

- ☐ Not knowledgeable at all (16)
- ☐ Slightly knowledgeable (17)
- ☐ Moderately knowledgeable (18)
- ☐ Very knowledgeable (19)
- ☐ Extremely knowledgeable (20)

Q41 Have you completed the departmental training for your body-worn camera?

- ☐ No (18)
- ☐ Maybe (19)
- ☐ Yes (20)

Q42 How helpful have you found the body-worn camera training the department provided?

- ☐ Not effective at all (9)
- ☐ Slightly effective (10)
- ☐ Moderately effective (11)
- ☐ Very effective (12)
- ☐ Extremely effective (13)

Q43 If you have any comments about the department's implementation and/or use of BWCs not covered in the survey but you feel are important to know, please tell us here.

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Q39 I have about \_\_ total years experience working in law enforcement (move slider to approximate).

0      4      8      12      16      20      24      28      32      36      40

Q40 My role in the department primarily involves:

- ☐ Patrol (1)
- ☐ Investigations (2)
- ☐ Other (3)
- ☐ Prefer not to say (4)