Body-Worn Cameras for ACPD

Summary of ACPD CAB Discussions To-Date

Vote

On March 11, 2021 during the regularly scheduled meeting, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for the Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) voted against a recommendation to include the establishment of a body worn camera (BWC) program in the Fiscal Year 2022\(^1\) ACPD budget request.

Decision process

The ACPD CAB has continuously discussed the idea of adding a BWC program to existing ACPD resources since December 2020. Through our research of such programs, we have found that BWC programs can both help members of a community feel more protected if supported by anti-racist and trauma-informed policies\(^2\) and, conversely, have negative impacts that are not widely known or anticipated by the community such as an increased ability for the criminal legal system to utilize footage in prosecution of marginalized individuals\(^3\). In deference to and hopes of bringing only the best practices to our community, the Board engaged in a wide and ongoing research project to review the issue as a whole (references available below). We have also recognized and continue to review calls from our community to implement a BWC program such as from the “Resolution in Support of Enhanced Communication and Transparency from the Auraria Campus Police Department” recently put forward by the Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board, as well as the community demand for policing alternatives like from the BIPOC Safer Spaces Resolution put forth by students and faculty from the Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy, Metropolitan State University of Denver’s Africana Studies and Chicana/o Studies Department, and the tri-institutional “Petition to Defund Auraria PD” put together by CU Denver graduate students. We have come to the conclusion that there are multiple aspects which must be carefully taken into account of when considering the development and implementation of a BWC program on the Auraria campus: 1) The purpose of such a program as understood by the community 2) The purpose of such a program as understood by ACPD. 3) The history of BWC programs being utilized as a tool to further the systemic racism present in the police system 4) Necessary policies that must be implemented alongside a BWC program to ensure that its function is largely positive and not ultimately detrimental to our community and, specifically, historically marginalized members of our

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1 FY22 spans July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
2 Chapman, 2019
3 Lum, Stoltz, Koper, & Scherer, 2019
community) accountability procedures which would need to accompany such a program. 6) Concerns around access to footage and policies around when it may or may not be released externally – especially with consideration to survivors of violence. 7) Critical evaluation of the realities of requesting greater funding for the ACPD in the wake of the BIPOC Safer Spaces Resolution and the Petition to Defund Auraria PD as well as the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on campus financial resources, and 8) What education and understanding does the community have about the current incident documentation technology used on campus (i.e. video surveillance)?

**Continuing the Discussion**

The CAB does not have a stance on the use of BWC by the ACPD in the future, this current decision only pertains to the pending 2021-2022 budget. The members will continue to discuss this topic and engage the Auraria campus community on the benefits and limitations before making any future recommendations.

**Action steps:**

The CAB has outlined the following action steps to continue this discussion in the following way:

- Host community Town Halls to specifically educate and gather opinion from our community on the subject. Along with the resources posted here, we want our community to actively engage in the research behind using BWC, both the psychological benefits and drawbacks as well as potential logistical issues if they were put into use.
- Our bi-weekly meetings, provide time for public comment as well as an email contact.ACPDCAB@AHEC.edu to directly engage with the board on BWC programs or use an [anonymous form](#) found on our website specific to the BWC program.
- Evaluate new policies that would provide accountability of the ACPD that would bolster a BWC program, if later introduced.
- Explore policies to ensure BWCs are used as a protective tool for the community rather than only a resource for the police department.
- Evaluate funding for potential BWC, enacting new policies and procedures, and training personnel.
- Utilize resources like Safer Spaces Resolution and SACAB’s ACPD Resolution and relevant campus qualitative/quantitative research studies as a tool to better understand the campus perceived and real perception leading the desire of implementing or not implementing BWCs as well as exploring safe and just alternatives if necessary.
- The CAB will build a stronger working relationship with SACAB/AEC/ACPD and other pertinent SGAs and organizations within all institutions to establish an agreeable decision based on stakeholder consensus.
Resources Cited


