



City of
Blue Earth

Police Department
Thomas Fletcher, Chief

the earth so rich the city grows

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Blue Earth, MN 56013 507 526-5959

COMMUNITY HEARING
BODY WORN CAMERAS AND BODY WORN CAMERA POLICY

The Blue Earth Police Department is currently in the process of looking at the implementation of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) for all our officers.

We have reviewed various vendors and the different platforms and data storage systems that they provide. The data obtained will be stored with an evidence management system provided by the camera vendor. Data is classified, audited, stored, and filed digitally as evidence. These digital files will be uploaded wirelessly and accessed over a secured system which can be utilized by other agencies such as the prosecutor's office at the discretion of the Blue Earth Police Department.

The 2016 Minnesota Legislative session as well as the League of Minnesota Cities provided certain requirements and guidelines for Minnesota law enforcement agencies who are looking at implementing a BWC program at their agencies. Requirements as well as guidelines on policy development were also provided.

One of the requirements that was identified is that agencies need to provide opportunities for public comment, accepted by mail and email. It also requires that the City Council allow for public comment at one of their regular meetings.

The Blue Earth Police Department wants to have support from the community as well as the officers that will be wearing the cameras. We understand the importance of community input as we go through this process. The benefits as well as the potential challenges that might arise, need to be discussed, and input from the community is an integral part of this process.

The Blue Earth Police Department has a draft policy based on statute requirements. A copy of this policy will be made available on the city's website at <https://becity.org/>, by calling the Police Department at 507-526-5959 or stopping by in person.

Public comment and/or questions into the Blue Earth Police Department BWC program is welcome by mail: 120 S. Walnut Box 38, email: police@becity.org, phone call: 507-526-5959 or stopping by our offices.