From:	Gisela Wilson
To:	Body-Worn Camera Feasibility Review Committee
Subject:	Follow-up on Comment and Young BWC case Re: Brief Comment re: Body Cam Policy
Date:	Monday, December 21, 2020 7:40:53 PM

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December 21, 2020

Dear Members of the BODY-WORN CAMERA FEASIBILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE,

I am relieved to hear you are requesting an extension in order to properly complete the report.

I'll reiterate my general comment that siphoning off city resources that could used to support the Madison communities most in need to pay for body worn cameras, analyists, and data storage costs seems like a waste of money while qualified immunity (legal, as well as in the public opinion of a majority white constiuency) and such a strong self-justifying police culture remains.

Regarding the Anjanette Young BCW case, including the victim's difficulty in accessing footage:

CPD made an error in their preparation of a warrant that resulted in their unjustified entry to Ms. Young's home.

The person they intended to search and arrest, lived near Ms Young and could have readily located since he was wearing an electronic monitor had officers listened to Ms. Young. (Ms Young tells the officers they have the wrong house 43 times during the recording.)

Both the fact that the officers failed to listen to Ms. Young and their lack of regard for her inability to clothe herself while she was in handcuffs and being held shows a severe disregard for her well-being, especially since she was obviously no threat to their safety.

I find it particularly problematic that access to body cam footage is so one-sided. It's much easier for police to access body camera footage to prosecute individuals, than it is for individuals to obtain body camera footage to demonstrate a violation of policy and procedure or officer neglect and/ or brutality.

"Young was denied a Freedom of Information Act request to the city for footage of the incident last year. She later obtained it through a lawsuit with the city. However, Lightfoot's administration recently admitted that it did not give Young's attorney all of the body camera footage."
"...The city then sought to block the footage from being aired on television, but was rejected in court. City lawyers also tried to have Young sanctioned for apparently violating a confidentiality agreement, which they later withdrew."

It seems the footage was leaked, which is relevant to the security issue I also commented on. In this instance, it worked to support the victim but that may not always be the case.

https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/Chicago-s-top-attorney-resigns-in-fallout-over-15817933.php

"the city of Chicago filed an emergency motion in federal court to stop CBS Chicago from broadcasting the apparently leaked footage in its Monday broadcast. The city argued airing the video violated a confidentiality agreement, but a federal judge denied the motion, ruling the TV station was not a party to the agreement."
https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/12/16/anjanette-young-chicago/; https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/chicago-mayor-says-attempt-block-video-raid-anjanette-young-s-n1251756

Sincerely,

Gisela Wilson, PhD
Madison, WI 53703
District 6

On Dec 3, 2020, at 3:34 PM, Gisela Wilson <giselawilson@gmail.com> wrote:

December 3, 2020

Dear Members of the BODY-WORN CAMERA FEASIBILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE,

I am writing today to briefly indicate my stance on body worn cameras. Unfortunately, I have a priorly scheduled meeting this evening.

I am against Madison incorporating Body Cams into MPD usage at this time. Although many hoped body cams would offer a measure of police accountability, in practise, four factors work against this aim.

First, body camera footage is selective in its perspective. This means officers might be able to justify their behavior based on a perspective that includes only the victim or suspect's response and, importantly, not the stimuli or behavior that elicited that response.

Second, police have qualified immunity both in the courts and in the commonly held views of a majority white public. Until there are adequate legal measures to hold police (and society) accountable, camera footage is waste of time and money. Many judges don't even look at body camera footage until later stages of a trial. Suspects also may be more likely to plead out if told there is film without knowing what that film might show. Innocent suspects pleading out has already been shown to be an issue due to the comparatively high bail amounts

set when the suspect is Black.

Third, likely due to the fact that body camera footage is from the officer's perspective, data examining the results of body cameras already in use show that body cam use actually has resulted in an increase in arrests for petty crime, not an increase in police accountability that was their aim. This end result will exacerbate, rather than mitigate, racial disparities in our criminal justice system.

Fourth, I have read about numerous examples when officers simply turned the camera off.

Sincerely,

Gisela Wilson, PhD
1244 Morrison Court
Madison, WI 53703