

We can consider these questions by adding “Do Body Cameras...” before almost all of the pros and cons.

### Possible Pros:

- **Increased transparency for law enforcement** - Residents are more comfortable having visibility into police work
- **Increased accountability (Police)** - Police who violate the law or abuse their authority will be more easily held accountable
- **Increased accountability (Bad Actors)** - People who make false or exaggerated claims against police are more easily held accountable
- **Increased civility** - If both parties know their actions are being recorded, they may be less likely to act poorly
- **Fewer resident complaints and deaths at police hands**
  - Justin Ready and Jacob Young from Arizona State University found that officers with body-worn cameras were more cautious in their actions and sensitive to possible scrutiny of video footage by their superiors
  - Barak Ariel and colleagues found that use-of-force incidents may be related to the discretion given to officers regarding when body-worn cameras are activated during officer-citizen encounters
- **Quicker case resolution** - Provides objective evidence that may help bring cases to a close faster
- **Training opportunities** - Other officers may be able to use body cam footage to learn from officer experiences and refine their techniques
- **Reduced court burden** - Some studies have shown that citizens are less willing to go to court

### Possible Cons:

- **Decreased civility** - Some residents may become belligerent if informed they are being recorded
- **Abuse of purpose** - As frontline users of the technology, police will quickly become experts on the body cameras selected. They may discover techniques that violate the objectiveness of the cameras; For example, erasing footage of a scene where they are at fault.
- **Resident intimidation** - Some residents may feel fear due to the body camera recording them. This may lead them to act irregularly or drive them to not reach out to the police even when otherwise appropriate out of fear. It is possible that police might use the threat of recording to intimidate residents.
- **Selective Usage** - Without any guardrails in place, police may simply use body camera footage when it benefits them, and block access when it does not. Leaving the footage solely in the hands of police may allow for a conflict of interest
- **Perception Bias** – Body cameras only show the perspective of the police wearing them, and may fail to capture critical context
- **Diminishing effect** - It is possible that while effective initially, body-worn cameras will have a less pronounced effect over time
- **Cost** - Body cameras can be expensive to purchase and maintain.