

APD Body-Worn Camera Program

The Austin Police Department (APD) Body-Worn Camera Program is an important component of APD's efforts to improve police interactions with the public and to strengthen accountability and transparency, building on local problem-solving and community-based engagement strategies.

About the Body Cameras:

APD currently uses two types of body-worn cameras: the Axon Body 2 is worn on the center of body, and the Flex 2 is mounted on an officer's shoulder or helmet. All of our cameras feature:

- Up to 12 hours of battery life
- The ability to record up to 30 frames per second
- IP67 rating (meaning they are protected from dust and water immersion up to 1 meter)
- High definition recordings

Body Camera Activation:

APD officers activate their camera as soon as reasonably possible upon dispatch to a call or at the start of an interaction with a citizen. A camera may also be remotely activated by a trigger within a patrol car when the driver door is opened.

Recordings and Private Spaces:

Body-worn camera footage captures law enforcement action and does not record private spaces unless a reasonable expectation of law enforcement action may occur.

Storage and Retention:

At the end of each shift, officers dock their cameras and all recorded footage automatically uploads to a cloud storage site called Evidence.com. APD cameras do not contain removable storage, so footage cannot be deleted until it is uploaded to the cloud. All footage is classified by officers in conjunction with an automated integration service that captures related data from the dispatch and records management systems. Evidence is retained in accordance with the City retention schedule, and access to video evidence is fully logged.

Providing Body-Worn Camera Footage to External Agencies:

The Austin Police Department provides body-worn camera footage to external agencies by providing a download link from Evidence.com or by directly sharing the footage on an external agency's Evidence.com account. Members of the public who are able to demonstrate that they are an interested party in the recorded incident may request video from APD.

For More Information:

- <http://www.austintexas.gov/APDbodycam>
- <http://effaustin.org/2015/04/april-meetup-law-enforcement-body-cameras/>
- https://www.reddit.com/r/Austin/comments/3vfo0d/hey_austinites_austin_police_department_here_to/

Questions about the Austin Police Department Body-Worn Camera Program may be emailed to APDBodyCamera@austintexas.gov.