Body-worn camera FAQ:

1. When will cameras be recording?
   - On all calls for police service and official citizen interactions.

2. How will citizens know they are being recorded?
   - Citizens should assume they are being recorded when interacting with a police officer. If you ask the officer, they will tell you whether or not the camera is recording.

3. Is there a light on the camera that indicates it is recording?
   - Yes, but the light can be deactivated in certain instances for officer safety yet the camera will still be recording.

4. Can a citizen ask the officer to turn the recording off?
   - Yes, but the officer is required to follow current policy and the request may be denied.

5. Who can see the recordings?
   - Officers may review their recordings to assist in preparing accurate reports in most instances. Supervisors may review certain recordings as designated by policy. Citizens will not be allowed to review recordings at scenes unless deemed necessary by a supervisor.

6. How long will recordings be retained?
   - Recordings will be retained in accordance with state retention laws, judicial proceedings and departmental policy.

7. Can officers review recordings?
   - Yes, but under certain critical incidents, officers will be required to give a formal statement before reviewing the recording.

8. What discretion do officers have when deciding to record or not?
   - Officers will have discretion to turn recording off during non-confrontational situations, if doing so helps to gather critical information.

9. Will officers be recording in hospitals, private residences and other places where there is an expectation of privacy?
   - Officers will be required to record when responding to calls for service including hospitals and private residences as necessary.

10. Can facial recognition technology be collected or used?
    - The system and software we are using does not use facial recognition.

11. Where can you find a copy of the current policy?
    - A copy of the current policy is posted on the City of Des Moines website.

12. How do you request a copy of a recording?
    - Citizens may request a copy of a recording by completing a request form available at the police station information desk or “on-line.” Go to the city's website, navigate to the Police Department and click on Forms and Documents. Search for "Application for Public Records." Certain restrictions will apply on whether the video recording is available for release.

13. How are the recordings stored?
    - On local servers managed by authorized City Information Technology personnel.

14. How much do the body cameras cost?
    - A single body camera costs about $1,000. This cost does not include various other back end costs, such as storage and software for the videos created, licensing, mounting options, etc.

15. How long do you expect the body cameras to last before needing to be replaced?
    - The technology in this area is rapidly changing. We expect to do periodic review of the cameras to determine if they should be replaced with the most current model available.