

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Cleveland Community Police Commission's Response the City of Cleveland  
asking Court for optional body-worn cameras

**CLEVELAND, OH, Tuesday, May 9, 2017** – The Cleveland Community Police Commission stands firmly in support of requiring the use of body-cameras whether officers are engaged in primary or secondary employment.

It is irresponsible for any police organization or City representative to support optional body-worn cameras for police secondary employment because police-issued body cameras have the potential to protect both police and community members and play a key role in investigating civilian and/or criminal complaints.

The Commission strongly recommends if police are acting under the color of law, they should be held to the same standards of accountability as if they were on-duty. That includes:

- police-issued body cameras being worn and used per Division policy
- requiring officers to disclose their badge number and maintain Division expectations of professionalism in action, language and demeanor
- Camera footage being available for both internal, civilian and criminal investigations into police conduct

When a citizen or visitor of Cleveland sees an officer in a uniform, professionalism, respect, integrity, dedication, and excellence should be exemplified regardless of who is employing the officer at that moment.

The City, Police Chief, and Union leadership owe it to the people of Cleveland to assure the body camera pilot program aimed at testing out the wearing of body cameras during secondary employment is successful. Fear of discipline should not be an excuse for non-participation in the pilot program, given officers should not be engaged in wrongdoing. Moreover, any misconduct or violations of CDP policies occurring on secondary employment also need to be addressed.

Accountability should be held to a premium for all officers acting under the color of law. We will not accept a lower standard of policing practice because the status quo is hard to overcome.

Our complete list of recommendation reports can be seen here: <http://www.clecpc.org/community-questionnaires>

Show your support of police wearing and using body-worn cameras in primary and secondary employment by signing the letter to Judge Solomon Oliver Jr. linked here: <https://goo.gl/forms/WWN95UhaAFa7ptwe2>

For more information on the Cleveland Community Police Commission (CPC), visit: [www.clecpc.org](http://www.clecpc.org).

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