

# **An Examination of The 2015 Police and Community Relations Improvement Act: *From Doctrine to Practice***

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# The Veritatis Institute

## **Vision Statement**

Shaping the future by enhancing informed decision making that impacts, preserves, and improves our quality of life.

## **Mission Statement**

The Veritatis Institute is an educational, non-profit foundation designed to foster a greater understanding of contemporary issues our leaders face today. The Institute is designed to take a research-to-practice approach to critical public policy issues and connect leaders and organizations who want to collaborate, in a nonpartisan forum to solve critical issues facing our society.

# Board of Directors

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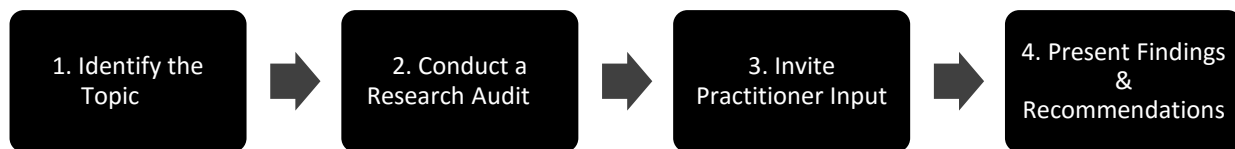
Robert P. Boehmer, Esq.	Vice President, Law Enforcement Consulting, Hillard Heintze
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## The Veritatis Institute

The Veritatis Institute is an independent, non-partisan think-tank that brings members of academia together with practitioners and stakeholders to analyze critical policy issues facing our society today. The Veritatis Institute hosts round-table forums to discuss and debate the effectiveness of proposed legislation or existing public policy. The organization also serves as a resource for policymakers seeking an independent body to gather unbiased research or provide critical feedback on a public policy issue.

## The Veritatis Way

The Veritatis Way describes the 4-Step process created to identify, vet and debate public policy issues within the Veritatis Institute. It is a consistent, repeatable framework for topic discovery and analysis that aligns with the organization's research-to-practice approach to critical public policy issues. The 4-step Veritatis Way process starts with identifying and vetting a public policy topic for consideration. Once a topic is agreed upon for debate within the forum, the next step is to gather all available research on the issue. In addition, members of academia who have published research on the topic of debate are invited to participate in the forum panel and share their findings. Rounding out the panel are individuals who are directly affected by the topic of debate. These practitioners are invited to serve as a sounding board to either validate or refute research findings. They are also asked to share their thoughts on the impacts of legislation or policy changes. The final step in the Veritatis Way is to synthesize and package the findings and conclusions from the forum and present them to policymakers or legislators with a call to action.



### Step 1: Identify the Topic

The Veritatis Institute applies a set of criteria to determine which public policy topics are suitable for debate in its forum. The selection process aligns with the organization's mission to foster a greater understanding of contemporary issues facing leaders today through a research-to-practice approach. The Veritatis Institute looks for topics and issues that are timely, broad-based and under current debate with policymakers. A topic is a good fit for the Veritatis Institute when forum debate can foster legislative or policy recommendations or calls to action. The organization will host debates on proposed legislation or existing policy impacting the community. Particular consideration is given to issues where there exists a disconnect between the intent of the policy language and how it is being implemented in society.

### Step 2: Conduct a Research Audit

As a research-based organization, the availability of data on a topic is a key determinant of whether a topic will be selected for the forum. When a topic lacks research, yet merits discussion based on its timeliness and its impact on public policy, the Veritatis Institute will seek out experts to conduct research on the issue. If current research on a topic is not available or cannot be conducted in a timely manner, it will fail to meet the requirements for debate.

After a public policy topic of issue is accepted and introduced into the forum, the Veritatis Institute conducts an audit of current information and research on the subject. Researchers and members of academia, including those who assisted in conducting research in preparation for the forum are invited to the forum and present their findings.

A Veritatis Institute forum always begins with an overview of the topic and presentation of research. This format provides attendees with a baseline foundation of knowledge on which to debate the issue. It also encourages a research-to-practice debate approach whereby ideas are measured against what current research is saying on a particular topic and merits of policy are measured against its written intent. This format also helps to identify other important questions regarding the topic that may not have been considered prior to understanding the facts and figures of a given topic.

### **Step 3: Invite Practitioner Input**

The Veritatis Institute strives to bring together a diverse cross-section of practitioners to encourage a well-rounded debate. After completing the research audit, the panel is rounded out with the invitation of subject-matter practitioners. These are people who are considered thought leaders on the topic. They are invited to participate in the forum by listening to the research and policy overview and providing feedback. The type of feedback asked of practitioners include examples of any shortcomings, benefits or unintended consequences they have experienced in the field.

### **Step 4: Present Findings & Recommendations**

The final step in the Veritatis Way process is to develop a call to action at the conclusion of the forum. This can take many forms, including a position piece on the legislation, a request for further research or a list of recommended changes on existing public policy. The call to action is always packaged together with a concise white-paper briefing of the forum, which includes a list of participants, summary of research and key takeaways. Once assembled, the Veritatis Institute hosts a presentation of findings with the appropriate audience of legislators or policymakers. The researchers and practitioners who participated in the forum debate are invited to join in the presentation and are available to answer questions from the audience.

The Veritatis Way provides the Veritatis Institute with a framework for undertaking and examining public policy issues. It provides repeatable methodology for running a forum that encourages its members and guests to stay within its mission while still having the flexibility to be a useful resource to all areas of public policy debate. As the Veritatis Institute continues to evolve, it will also look to refine its process to ensure it remain independent, non-partisan and research-based in its practice and execution.

## Executive Summary

Headlines regarding violence in America and the deterioration of the relationship between law enforcement and the community resulted in the Illinois General Assembly's enactment of *Public Act 099-0352, Police and Community Relations Improvement Act*. This Public Act, signed by Governor Bruce Rauner in August 2015, addresses comprehensive police reform at the state level, including the use of body cameras, expanded procedural justice and other training and independent reviews of police-involved death.

The Veritatis Institute convened a group made up of (5) Elected & Appointed Municipal Leaders, (4) Law Enforcement Executives, (4) Members of Research & Academia to explore the scope of this new law, its effect on our communities across the State of Illinois, and policy alternatives and enhancements for today and for the future. Using the Veritatis Way debate framework, the invitation-only participants reviewed and discussed the realities and perceptions of public safety in our communities, implementation and costs of this new law, and provided recommendations to make this law even more effective.

The outcome of the one-day forum included recommendations on the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) and suggestions on rolling out enhanced training. In addition, the forum debate prompted the creation of a survey of representatives of law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois in order to understand whether they currently use BWCs, if they plan on using BWCs, and what sorts of barriers exist to utilizing BWCs. The results are included in appendices of this white paper.

**Building Bridges Between the Police and the Community:**  
***The 2015 Police and Community Relations Improvement Act From Doctrine to Practice***  
**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**  
**Tuesday, December 8, 2015**  
**Oak Brook, Illinois**

**Background**

The Veritatis Institute hosted its inaugural public policy forum, [Building Bridges Between the Police and the Community: The 2015 Police and Community Relations Improvement Act From Doctrine to Practice](#) on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. The Veritatis Institute selected police and community relations as its first issue, because it continues to be among the most critical public policy issues facing our leaders and society today. Nationwide public outcry for police reform reached a crescendo in 2015 after a series of highly-publicized incidents, including the police shooting death of black teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the chokehold death of Eric Garner, a black man from Staten Island, New York.

In May 2015, President Obama’s Taskforce on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing published its Final Report identifying best policing practices and offering recommendations on how those practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust. On August 12, 2015, the State of Illinois followed suit when Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner signed the Illinois *Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (Act)* into law. The Act was a compilation of 200 separate pieces of legislation intended to reform policing practices and build trust and legitimacy within the community. Starting in January 2016, law enforcement agencies were required to begin complying with the recommendations of the Act.

The Veritatis Institute forum provided an opportunity for members of Illinois law enforcement, local government and academia to review the implementation process and costs of compliance with this new law. In addition forum attendees were presented with scientific evidence about programs that work, and developed recommendations to make this law even more effective.

**Agenda**

The forum was split between a morning and afternoon session. The morning session was dedicated to providing attendees with an overview of the Illinois *Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (Act)*. It also established the guidelines of debate set forth by the Veritatis Way. The afternoon session consisted of a moderator-led debate and deconstruction the elements of the Act. Participants were asked to provide feedback on the Act and come up with a set of recommendations for effective implementation of the Act. The results of the daylong forum will be presented to members of the Illinois General Assembly during the 2016 Veto Session.

***Welcome Remarks & Introduction***

The forum started at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. It began with introductions from the Veritatis Institute board, including John Furcon, who would serve as the forum moderator. John Millner and John Kennedy, the co-founders of The Veritatis Institute gave a welcome address to the panel. They outlined the Veritatis Way, which details the process by which issues are selected for inclusion within the forum and the research and data-driven forum process. This was followed by brief introductions from each round-table guest. The panel consisted of a cross-section of members of academia who have conducted research related to the Illinois *Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (Act)* and practitioners who will be affected by requirements of the Act. The forum participants in attendance consisted of (5) Elected & Appointed Municipal Leaders, (4) Law Enforcement Executives, (4) Members of Research & Academia and the (4) Veritatis Institute Board Members.

The panel spent the next 7 hours understanding the scope of the Act and its impact on policing communities across the State of Illinois. The day included discussions on the perceptions and realities of police-citizen relations in their communities. They also shared the likely challenges and costs related to the implementation process of this new law. Finally, the day concluded with a set of recommendations to make this law more effective.

**An Overview of 21st Century Policing Report and Recommendations**

After completing introductions, John Furcon, Director of Research and Consulting at the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety presented the major findings from the *President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Final Report*. Mr. Furcon started with an overview of Task Force and provided answers to key questions including:

- Why it was empaneled?
- Who served on the Task Force?
- What methodology was used?
- What duration of time was given?

The Task Force was assembled in response to highly publicized incidents in Ferguson, Missouri, New York and other cities throughout the United States. The Task Force consisted of police chiefs, academics, a police union leader, a state-wide police training director and activists representing a broad range of issues and constituencies. Data on the state of policing in the U.S. was captured through multiple public listening sessions, invited testimony, and written testimony submissions from individuals and organizations. The Task Force was given 90-days from December 2014 to complete their initial report. The findings were released in April 2015.

After giving background and answering key questions of the Task Force, Mr. Furcon presented the forum with the “Six Pillars of Change” and highlights from the 154 recommendations and actions items from the report. As described in the table below, the “Six Pillars of Change” served as mandates and directives that the practitioners in the room would have to begin implementing in 2016.

	Pillar	Description
1	Building Trust & Legitimacy	Agencies must employ procedural justice at an internal and external level while developing a guardian mindset. They must recognize the existence of implicit biases in their departments and understand why they are harmful to communities.
2	Policy & Oversight	Policies of agencies should reflect the established culture of the community. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the agency to communicate their policies with the community and be transparent to ensure credibility.
3	Technology & Social Media	Agencies must be quick to identify technological innovations and learn how to increase efficiency with them.
4	Community Policing & Crime Reduction	Agencies must identify stakeholders in the community and work with them in a problem-solving capacity to help identify and fix public safety issues.
5	Training & Education	Law enforcement agencies must update their training programs and diversify education requirements to cope with shifting demographics in American society.
6	Officer Wellness & Safety	It is important that agencies develop programs that focus on the physical, mental, and emotional health of officers and recognize the stressors that come with the job.

Figure 1 "Six Pillars of Change" in the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing



Mr. Furcon's presentation concluded with the merits and shortcomings of the Task Force Report. The Report was credited with using a sound data-gathering methodology, having recommendations founded on research and evidence-based practices and offering solutions that were actionable and clear to the police agencies. Furcon also pointed out that the Report fails to address the "root causes" of situations where the police are required to manage, yet are not under their control or influence. For instance, the Report lacks clarity as to the role of other community institutions, such as political leadership, education, business, health care and faith communities in the implementation process. Moreover, the Report offers no clear answer on how the costs associated with the recommended reforms will be paid for by the police agencies.

### ***An Overview of Public Act 099-0352, Police and Community Relations Improvement Act***

Mr. Furcon's presentation explained how the *President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Final Report* established the framework for statewide policing reform programs. Mr. John Kennedy then transitioned to the next agenda topic, which was an overview of *Public Act 099-0352, the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act*. His comments were based on a presentation prepared by Mr. Donald Zoufal, a practicing attorney and criminal justice system expert. Kennedy explained how The Act laid out recommendations for comprehensive police reform in the State of Illinois. This included procedures for the use and handling of body cameras, expansions to procedural justice and other training and independent review components of police-involved death. Kennedy went down the list of all issues addressed in the Act:

- Reporting officer involved deaths
- Body-worn cameras
- Reporting deaths, weapons discharge
- The Commission on Police Professionalism
- Officer conduct database
- Pedestrian detention reporting
- Tactics: (a) chokeholds; (b) detention and frisks
- Enhanced training
- Equipment-

### ***Vet the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act: what should be eliminated; revised; added***

When the presentation on the Act concluded, attendees asked to decide on which issues they wanted to focus during the second half of the day. It would not be possible to debate all issues covered in the Act during the one-day forum. Forum members were in unanimous agreement that the topic of body-worn cameras be discussed since the topic has been at the forefront of national debate. They also decided to take on the topic of enhanced training as training curriculum revisions have already been underway in the State of Illinois. Despite not being able to cover every topic, the forum members concluded this component of the day's agenda with a working knowledge of the Act that would be useful in future forum discussions.

### ***An Overview of Research Related to Police and Community Relations Improvement Act***

After returning from a short recess, the agenda shifted to data and research related to the Act. Jon Maskaly and William P. McCarty, Professors in the Department of Criminology, Law and Justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago presented evidence on the use and effectiveness of police body-worn cameras (BWCs). At the time of the forum, there were 30 on-going research projects and 12 existing studies on BWCs. Research has shown that the presence of BWCs resulted in fewer external complaints in studies conducted in Orlando, Florida and London, England. The use of BWCs also resulted in fewer incidents of force by police in a study conducted in Rialto, CA. Despite these positive figures and general support from the cities where studies were conducted, research did reveal mixed reactions from the front-line officers wearing the BWCs. Additionally, the application of findings to Illinois law are limited at best. For example, while a small number of studies have tried to measure down-system effects of BWCs (i.e. effects on guilty pleas, prosecutions, etc.), the evidence is not fully clear. The existing

literature is also silent on how different types of BWCs (i.e. brand names, technical features provided, etc.) affect any outcome measures.

### **The Forum Debate: Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs)**

The afternoon session began after a short lunch break. Equipped with background on the Act and research on the effectiveness of body-worn cameras, the forum shifted from presentations to debate. The second half of the day focused on the use of body-worn cameras and the need for enhanced training. Debate began with the question of whether or not law enforcement agencies in Illinois would adopt and utilize cameras for their police agency. Panel members expressed their concern over current Illinois eavesdropping laws and its restrictions on the use of audio within the camera. They questioned the impact on policing and body cameras when a citizen requests the device be turned off during a stop. This led into a discussion on whether audio could be redacted since technology currently only allows for redaction of video footage. Finally, concerns broadened from the practical implementation of body worn cameras to the immediate questions of space and costs. Participants expressed concerns over storage of video and the costs associated with purchasing and implanting BWCs.

The panel concluded the debate on the use of BWCs with a set of recommendations. While they were in support of BWCs, members agreed that current implementation requirements under the Act discourage police agencies from adopting them. They believe the Act overlooks the preparatory planning and policy development process, which are necessary to increase the likelihood of successful implementation. Members of the forum concluded that BWC implementation should be put on hold until major questions were answered surrounding budgetary and technological constraints. In addition, the forum suggested that more research on how current eavesdropping and FOIA laws impact the use of BWCs. They suggested that BWC video be exempt from FOIA law as a way to reduce the time and costs associated with redacting audio and visual elements. Members also recommended that the State of Illinois work with the Police Training Board to secure a large-scale purchase of the technology and equipment related to BWCs. This would provide for economies of scale in purchasing and reduce the costs associated with start-up and implementation. While research supports the positive effects of BWCs, the participants feared that an improper rollout of BWCs would further erode police and community relations.

### **The Forum Debate: Enhanced Training**

Attendees spent the final hour of the forum debating the requirements for enhanced training. The forum was in support of enhanced training and agreed that effective training was critical to successfully adopt the requirement within the Act. They suggested that the State of Illinois increase the number of hours required for training new police recruits. Presently, Illinois required 480-hours of training is among the lowest in the nation. With curriculum revisions already underway, there was growing concern within the room that police agencies lacked the necessary budget to adopt new training requirements. Also, the forum suggested that any changes to in-service training include language that addresses the new training mandates from the Act. The debate on enhanced training requirements concluded with a call-to-action for police agencies to better share with the community all the measures they are undertaking to improve community policing, procedural justice and minimize implicit bias. As a whole, they believe police agencies are doing a poor job documenting all of the positive actions, which have led to negative perceptions of law enforcement.

**Conclusions & Next Steps**

It quickly became clear to the panel members that questions, concerns and ideas born out of the meeting should be shared with a larger audience. Given its focus on evidence-based research, members of the Veritatis Institute sought to develop and field a survey of representatives of law enforcement agencies throughout Illinois to understand whether they currently use BWCs, if they plan on using BWCs, and what sorts of barriers exist to utilizing BWCs.

As such, a twelve-item survey was developed and fielded online from December 16, 2015, until January 19, 2016. A link to the survey was made available to members of the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs and the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System. Potential respondents were asked that only one representative per agency reply to the survey. These methods resulted in a total of 501 individuals who responded to the survey, the results of which are discussed in the appendices of this white paper.

**Summary of Recommendations**  
**Building Bridges Between the Police and the Community:**  
**The 2015 Police and Community Relations Improvement Act From Doctrine to Practice**

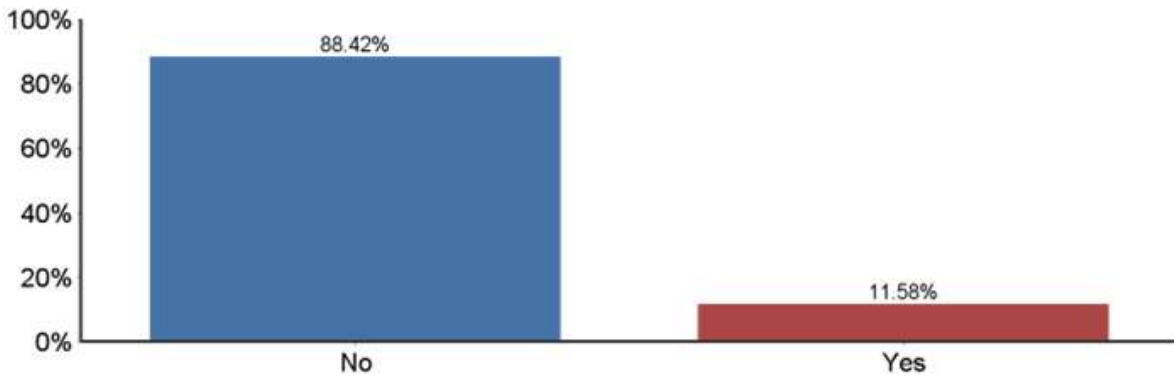
<b>Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs)</b>	<b>Enhanced Training</b>
1. Delay BWC implementation	1. Ensure training is evidenced-based
2. Work with the training board to secure statewide funding	2. Increase new recruit training hours
3. Review the legal implications of video evidence stored privately	3. Include new mandate training within in-service training curriculum
4. Exempt BWC audio and video from FOIA laws	4. Define the role and responsibilities of supervisors in compliance of law enforcement officers enhanced training requirements
5. Eliminate consent to videotape when an officer is in uniform	5. Market the positive changes police agencies are making in the community to improve community policing, procedural justice, and eliminate implicit bias
6. Adopt a statewide BWC program evaluation	6. Create an evaluation process to measure the effectiveness of enhanced training programs
7. Identify “lessons learned” document to support continuous improvement of BWC implementation	7. Improve training to eliminate the “warrior vs. guardian” mind-set

**Appendix: Officer Body-Worn Camera Survey**

**Findings**

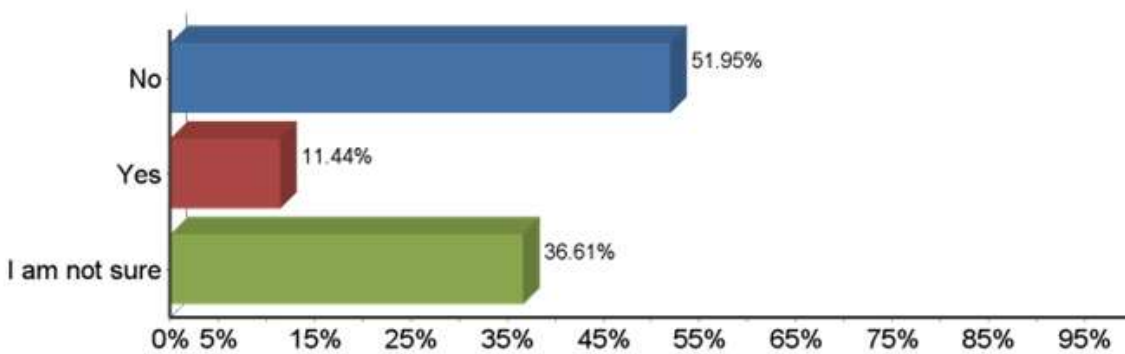
As Figure 1 indicates, the use of BWCs does not currently appear to be widespread in the state of Illinois, with 88% of the 501 respondents stating that their department/agency does not currently use the technology.

**Figure 1. Is your department/agency currently using officer body worn cameras (BWCs)? (501 total respondents)**



Those respondents whose agencies do not use BWCs were subsequently asked about whether they plan on using them in 2016. As Figure 2 indicates, of those 443 respondents whose agencies do not currently use BWCs, 52% (n=227) reported they had no plans on using them in 2016.

**Figure 2. Will your department/agency use officer body worn cameras in 2016? (443 total respondents)**

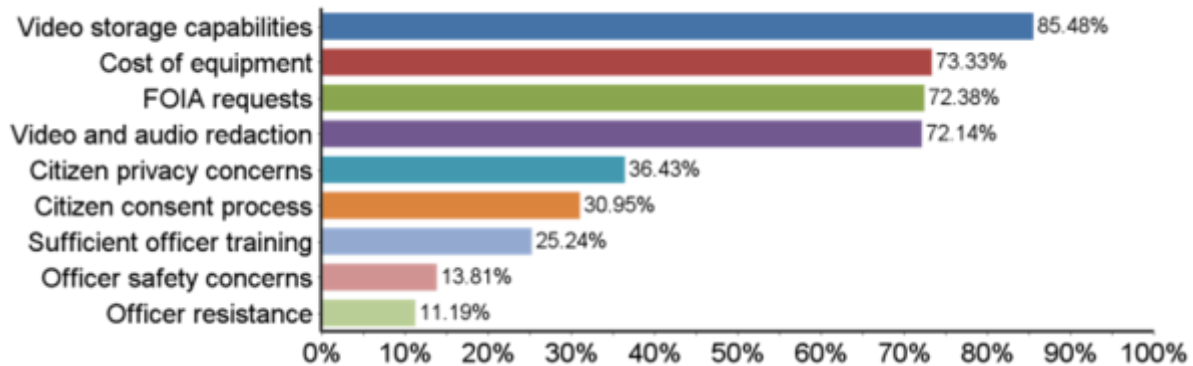


Further, 37% (n=160) reported being unsure about using them in 2016. The remaining 11% (n=50) stated that their agency/department plan on using BWCs in 2016. Put succinctly, few agencies in Illinois currently use BWCs and few have definitive plans on using them in 2016.

Respondents were asked further about barriers that existed to utilizing BWCs through a question that listed nine possible impediments and asked respondents to check all that applied. For those respondents who stated that their agency/department does not currently use BWCs, the top four barriers were a lack of video storage capabilities (selected by 85% of respondents), cost of equipment (selected by 73% of respondents), receiving and

responding to Freedom of Information Act (i.e. FOIA) requests (selected by 72% of respondents), and being able to redact video sound and audio, when required (selected by 72% of respondents). Figure 3 lists the percentage of respondents who selected each of the barriers mentioned on the survey.

**Figure 3. Which of the following are barriers to your department/agency using officer body worn cameras? Please check all that apply. (420 total respondents)**



Respondents were also given an open-ended question, where they had the opportunity to describe the main reason(s) why their department/agency will not be using BWCs. Of those respondents who stated that their agency/department does not currently use BWCs, a total of 214 took the time to explain their rationale. Unequivocally, the top two reasons cited for not using BWCs were cost and the issues with the Illinois law. For example, in terms of cost, one respondent stated:

“We are a small department and the costs associated with the use and retention of video footage, coupled with the tracking and reporting requirements makes the use of these cameras a burden on the department and city.”

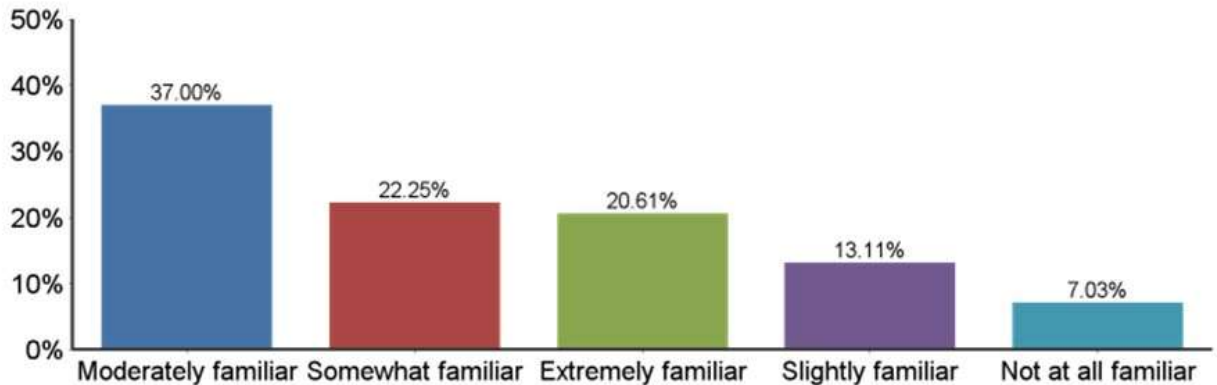
As another example, in terms of the Illinois law:

“The Illinois legislature made the body camera law so restrictive that it will cost too much to implement the program. I really would like to have body cameras but under the law, it is not practical. I would have thought that the legislature would have drafted the law so agencies would use them, not stay away from them.”

Finally, a solid majority of respondents were familiar with the Illinois Law Enforcement Body-Worn Camera and Management Act, with 80% of those individuals whose agencies are not currently using BWCs stating they were somewhat familiar, moderately familiar, or extremely familiar with what is contained in the new legislation.

Figure 4 provides a full breakdown of the percentage of respondents for each response category to this question.

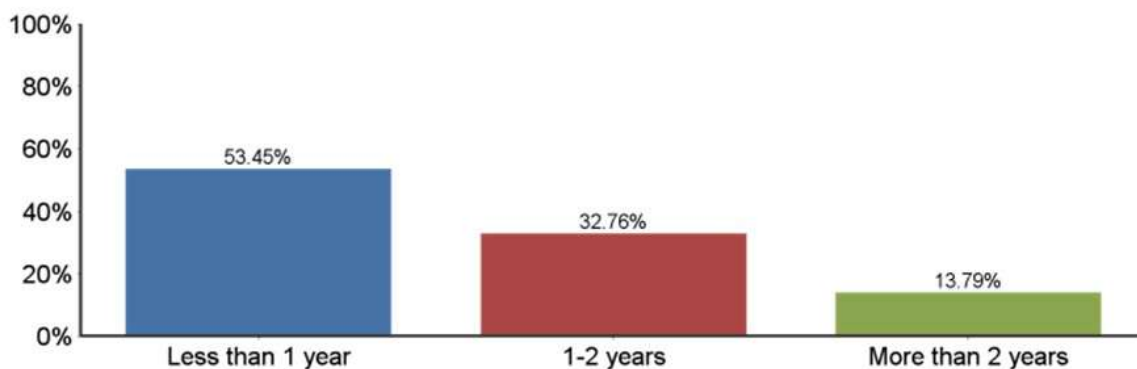
**Figure 4. How familiar are you with the Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera and Management Act? (427 total respondents)**



Despite most respondents being from agencies that are not using BWCs, 12% (n=58) still reported that their agency/department currently uses the technology. Further, another group (n=50) reported that despite not currently using BWCs, that their agency/department plans on using the technology in 2016. As such, the survey allowed us to understand more about those groups and how they view BWCs and the reasons for adopting the technology.

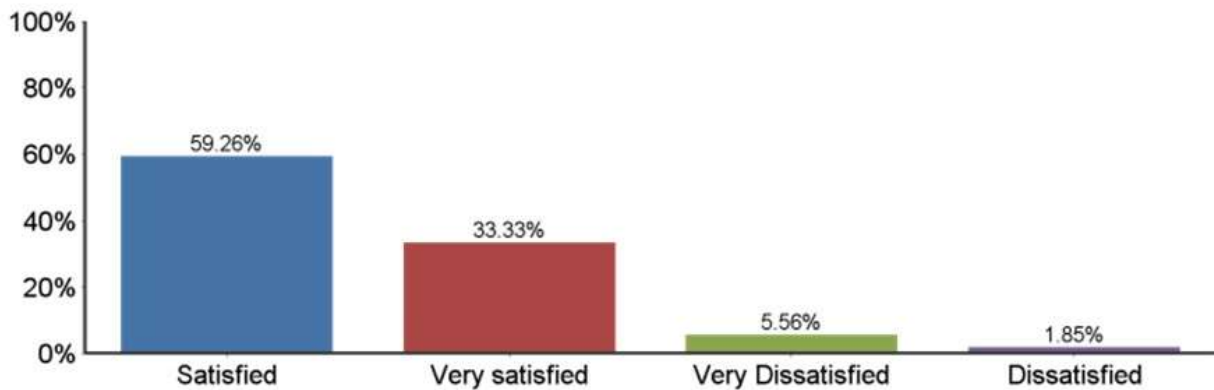
As far as those respondents whose agency/department currently uses BWCs, Figure 5 indicates that 53% (n=31) report using the technology for less than a year, with the remainder having used it for 1-2 years (33%, n=19) or more than two years (14%, n=8).

**Figure 5. Approximately how long has your department/agency been using officer body worn cameras (BWCs)? (58 respondents)**



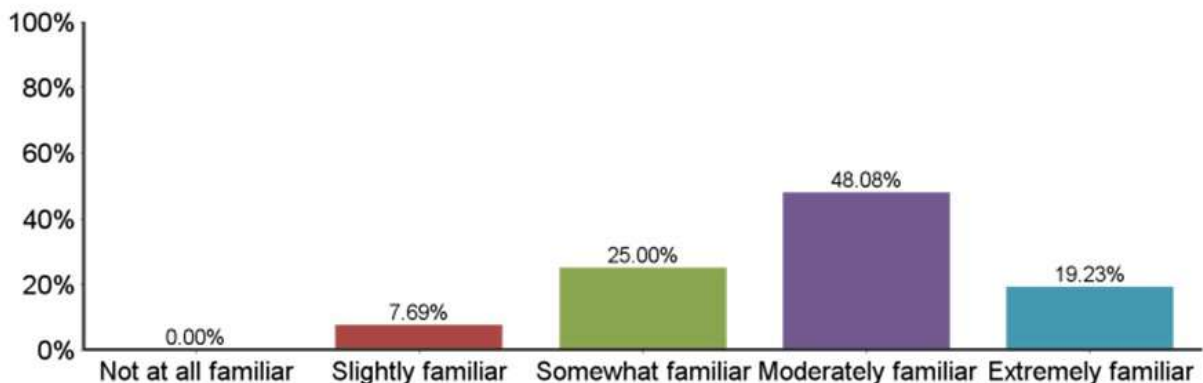
The reasons why those agencies chose to use BWCs were varied, with most respondents mentioning in an open-ended question the advantages the technology has as far as improving evidence, helping officer safety, and increasing the transparency of the department. More telling, those respondents expressed overwhelming satisfaction with BWCs, as 92% (n=50) were satisfied or very satisfied with using the technology. Figure 6 provides a full breakdown of the percentage of respondents for each response category to this question.

**Figure 6. Describe your overall level of satisfaction with using officer body worn cameras. (54 respondents)**



Awareness of the Illinois Law Enforcement Body-Worn Camera and Management Act among this group was also strong, with 92% (n=48) being somewhat familiar, moderately familiar, or extremely familiar with what is contained in the new legislation. Figure 7 provides a full breakdown of the percentage of respondents for each response category to this question.

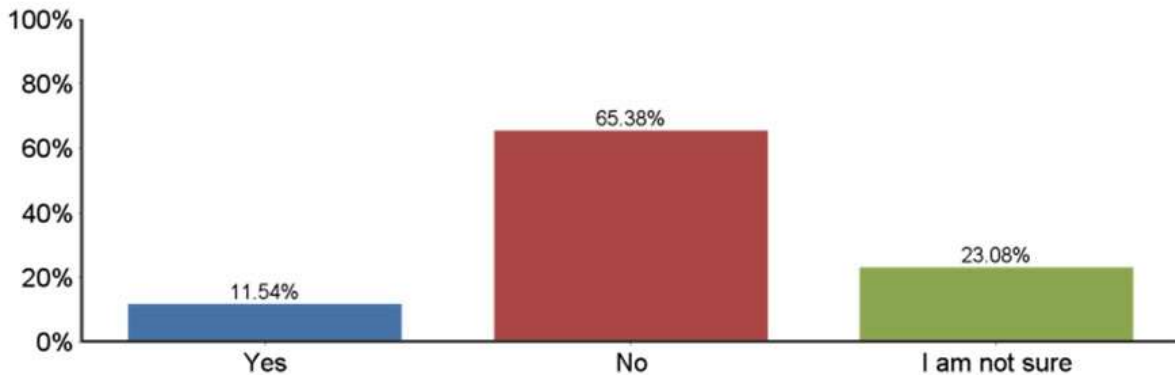
**Figure 7. How familiar are you with the Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera and Management Act? (52 total respondents)**



Most importantly, as Figure 8 suggests, among this group of respondents who report their agency/department currently uses BWCs, 65% (n=34) do not plan to discontinue using the technology in light of the requirements in the new law. An additional 23% (n=12) of respondents don't know if they

plan to discontinue the use of BWCs. Finally, 12% (n=6) plan to discontinue the use of BWCs in light of the requirements in the new law. While it is a net positive that 65% plan to continue using BWCs, the percentage of respondents who plan to discontinue or don't know is at least somewhat troubling given the overall broad satisfaction expressed with BWCs (i.e. 92% satisfied or very satisfied).

**Figure 8. Do you plan to discontinue (i.e. stop using) officer body worn cameras in 2016 due to requirements contained in the Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera and Management Act? (52 total respondents)**



Finally, a few notes are needed about those respondents (n=50) who, despite not currently using BWCs, plan on using them in their department/agency in 2016. These individuals were given an open-ended question, where they had the opportunity to describe the main reason(s) why their department/agency will be using BWCs. A total of 45 of these individuals described their rationale and the responses varied considerably. Generally, respondents discussed the benefits as far as improving evidence, helping officer safety, and improving public relations. As one respondent stated:

“They are another tool to assist in prosecution, like in-car cameras. As public trust diminishes for LEO's (law enforcement officers), the cameras will help restore that trust by showing LEO's are doing their job the correct way almost all the time.”

## Conclusions

Ultimately, the results of the survey coalesce into several themes. First, the vast majority of departments/agencies in Illinois are not currently using BWCs, nor do many have definitive plans on using them in the near future. Second, barriers to using BWCs are many, and some of the strongest are a lack of video storage capabilities, cost of equipment, receiving and responding to FOIA requests, and being able to redact video sound and audio, when required. Open-ended responses also suggest the two main reasons for not adopting the technology are cost and concerns about complying with Illinois Law Enforcement Body-Worn Camera and Management Act. Finally, a small, but growing, percentage of departments/agencies are currently using, or have plans to use, BWCs. The agencies already using BWCs express overwhelming satisfaction with the technology, and cite the benefits as far as evidence, officer safety, and transparency. Respondents from agencies that plan on using BWCs express similar ideas when explaining their rationale for adopting the technology.



## Limitations

Finally, it is important to acknowledge limitations of the survey methods utilized. First, it is unknown if the 501 respondents skew towards one type of agency or a specific geographic region in Illinois, as the survey did not inquire about agency name and/or type, as we wanted to preserve the anonymity of the respondents. This survey was announced to agencies large and small throughout the state, including private agencies, such as railroad police, and college/university departments, in addition to municipal and county law enforcement agencies and we have no way of knowing the exact composition of agencies represented in this group of respondents. Second, multiple respondents from one agency may have replied to the survey, meaning that the 501 respondents probably do not represent 501 unique agencies/departments. Potential respondents were asked to only have one respondent per agency, but we do not have a way of ensuring that took place. With those limitations in mind, the large sample size does suggest that the respondents represent some of the diversity of law enforcement agencies in the state of Illinois, but it by no means is a representative sample of that group.

####

**Appendix: Officer Body Worn Camera (BWC) Survey**

Q1 Is your department/agency currently using officer body worn cameras (BWCs)?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**Q2-Q6 only given to agencies who ARE NOT currently using BWCs**

Q2 Will your department/agency use officer body worn cameras in 2016?

- No (1)
- Yes (2)
- I am not sure (3)

**Only Answer If Will your department/agency use officer body worn cameras in 2016? No Is Selected**

Q3 Can you briefly describe the main reason(s) why your department/agency WILL NOT use officer body worn cameras in 2016?

**Only Answer If Will your department/agency use officer body worn cameras in 2016? Yes Is Selected**

Q4 Can you briefly describe the main reason(s) why your department/agency WILL use officer body worn cameras in 2016?

Q5 How familiar are you with the Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera and Management Act?

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Slightly familiar (2)
- Somewhat familiar (3)
- Moderately familiar (4)
- Extremely familiar (5)

Q6 Which of the following are barriers to your department/agency using officer body worn cameras? Please check all that apply.

- Cost of equipment (1)
- Video storage capabilities (2)
- Understanding when citizens can consent or not consent to being recorded (3)
- Officer safety concerns (4)
- Receiving and responding to Freedom of Information Act (i.e. FOIA) requests (5)
- Being able to redact video sound and audio, when required (6)
- Citizen privacy concerns (7)
- Officers receiving sufficient training to use the technology (8)
- Officer resistance (9)



**Q7-Q12 only given to agencies who ARE currently using BWCs**

Q7 Approximately how long has your department/agency been using officer body worn cameras (BWCs)?

- Less than 1 year (1)
- 1-2 years (2)
- More than 2 years (3)

Q8 Can you briefly describe the main reason(s) why your department/agency uses officer body worn cameras?

Q9 Describe your overall level of satisfaction with using officer body worn cameras.

- Very Dissatisfied (1)
- Dissatisfied (2)
- Satisfied (3)
- Very satisfied (4)

Q10 Which of the following were barriers to your department/agency using officer body worn cameras? Please check all that apply.

- Cost of equipment (1)
- Video storage capabilities (2)
- Understanding when citizens can consent or not consent to being recorded (3)
- Officer safety concerns (4)
- Receiving and responding to Freedom of Information Act (i.e. FOIA) requests (5)
- Being able to redact video sound and audio, when required (6)
- Citizen privacy concerns (7)
- Officers receiving sufficient training to use the technology (8)
- Officer resistance (9)

Q11 How familiar are you with the Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera and Management Act?

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Slightly familiar (2)
- Somewhat familiar (3)
- Moderately familiar (4)
- Extremely familiar (5)

Q12 Do you plan to discontinue (i.e. stop using) officer body worn cameras in 2016 due to requirements contained in the Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera and Management Act?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I am not sure (3)

**Building Bridges between the Police and the Community:  
An Evidence-Based Conversation in Light of the 2015  
Police and Community Relations Improvement Act**

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
December 8, 2015

Oak Brook Police Department  
1200 Oak Brook Road  
Oak Brook, IL 60523

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Overview of 21st Century Policing Report and Recommendations
- IV. Overview of Public Act 099-0352, Police and Community Relations Improvement Act
- V. Break
- VI. Overview of Research Related to Police and Community Relations Improvement Act
- VII. Vet the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act: what should be eliminated; revised; added
- VIII. Lunch
- IX. Detailed discussion of eliminations and revisions
- X. Detailed discussions of additions and other actions
- XI. Next steps
- XII. Concluding comments
- XIII. Adjournment

## Forum Panel Members

### Research & Academia

Jonathan Maskaly	Visiting Assistant Professor- Department of Criminology, Law & Justice, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
William P. McCarty	Associate Professor- Department of Criminology, Law & Justice, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
David Olson	Professor, Graduate Program Director - Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Loyola University of Chicago
Dennis P. Rosenbaum	Professor, Department of Criminology, Law & Justice, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)

### Elected & Appointed Municipal Leaders

Rodney S. Craig	Village President, Hanover Park, IL
Tim Gleason	City Manager, Decatur, IL
Mike Inman	Mayor, Macomb, IL
Valerie Salmons	Village Administrator, Bartlett, IL
Eugene Williams	Mayor, Lynwood, IL

### Law Enforcement Executives

Frank Kaminski	Chief of Police, Park Ridge, IL
Jim Kruger	Chief of Police, Oak Brook, IL
Terry Lemming	Chief of Police, Lockport, IL
Jim Page	Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)

### States Attorneys

Joseph H. McMahon	State's Attorney, Kane County
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