

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) is to deliver programs and services, provides a physical hub, and to advocate to improve the well-being and equity of Jamaican, Caribbean & African-Canadian communities within the Greater Toronto Area



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Dubi Kanengisser
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Toronto Police Services Board
40 College Street, 7th Floor
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By e-mail

Re: Body-Worn Camera Policy Contribution

The Jamaica Canadian Association welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Toronto Police Service Board's (TPSB) consultation on the policy for body worn cameras for the Toronto Police Service. From further consultations held online of which we participated in, we observed that our members would have significant concerns with the following sections of the draft policy:

Section 31. Facial Recognition and Protests

Protests are generally held by persons wishing for diverse reasons to express their right to free speech and expression and their right to assemble freely. Invariably, an issue is raised if the right to privacy presumed in such circumstances which is then invaded by service members who record automatically because they believe that there is a likelihood that violent events will occur and force will be employed by them at such protests thereby having their BWC's deployed at all times and not turned on when only faced with reasonable suspicion.

The policy in place should be specific as to the distinction between the mere belief versus reasonable suspicion that an offence is likely to take place.

Need for Human Rights Considerations by use of Racialized Mugshot Data

In addition to Privacy Impact Assessments conducted as a result of exception to bans on the need to create searchable mugshot databases, Human Rights Impact Assessments particularly when it relates to racialized BIPOC search circumstances should also be conducted.

Section 19 Rules on Secondary Uses and subsequent disclosure

We believe that certain prohibition of uses outside of normal interaction events with the public must be enforced. The BWC should not be deployed as a device for spying on members of the public or for general surveillance.

Review of Footage

While service personnel may have the discretion to review their own footage, our members are concerned that such review should not be undertaken without supervised access.

Access to Footage

The Policy states that a request for access should include the reason for such access; it should also include the purpose for the request of such access. This would provide better management of Human Rights concerns.

Auditing and Public Reporting

The requirement that the Police Services Board will conduct an annual audit to provide historical statistical information on certain events, (for eg. the failure to record interactions and complaints for BWC use) may not provide timely information necessary to deal with inadequacies in the administration of the system, particularly where more expedient resolution is required. Also statistical information as to the BWC use among members of the BIPOC community is required.

Accessibility of Public Reporting

Policies and Procedures once not considered a security risk should be in plain English and in diverse languages to ensure wide public accessibility.

Standard Format to advise public when they are being recorded

Similar to the verbal advice of the reading of one's rights, members of the public should be advised that they are being recorded.

Yours Truly,

Adaoma Patterson
President

and

Benito F. Palomino
Director