

# BWC Evaluation

- **Acknowledgement of Evaluation Advisory Committee for helpful input and advice:**
  - Mr. Harvey Low, Social Research & Analysis Unit, City of Toronto
  - Dr. Flora Matheson, Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital
  - Dr. Sara Thompson, Department of Criminology, Ryerson University
  - Ms. Carrol Whynot TPS evaluation lead – Strategic Management

# BWC Evaluation

## ● Purpose of Pilot:

- Explore the benefits, challenges, and issues surrounding the use of body-worn cameras in Toronto.

## ● Goals of BWC:

- enhance public and officer safety
- enhance public trust and police legitimacy
- enhance commitment to bias-free professional service
- provide improved evidence for investigative, judicial purposes
- provide information on effectiveness of Service governance and training

# BWC Project Overview

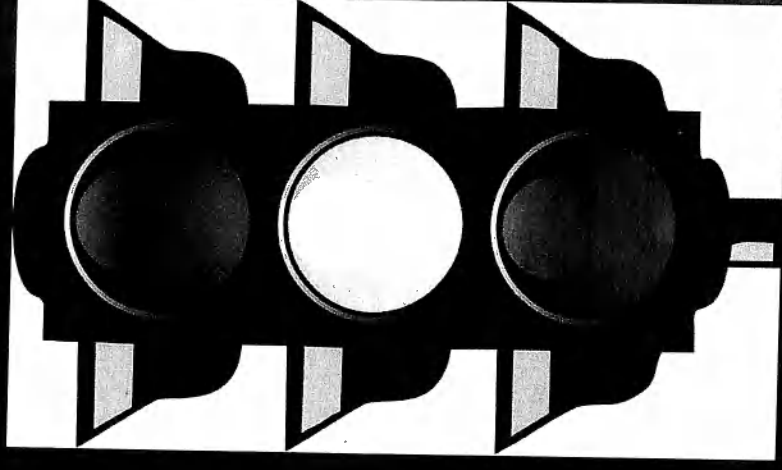
1 year pilot

2 month training exercise

10 months live

Training begins: March 23, 2015

Live operations: May 18, 2015



# BWC Project Overview

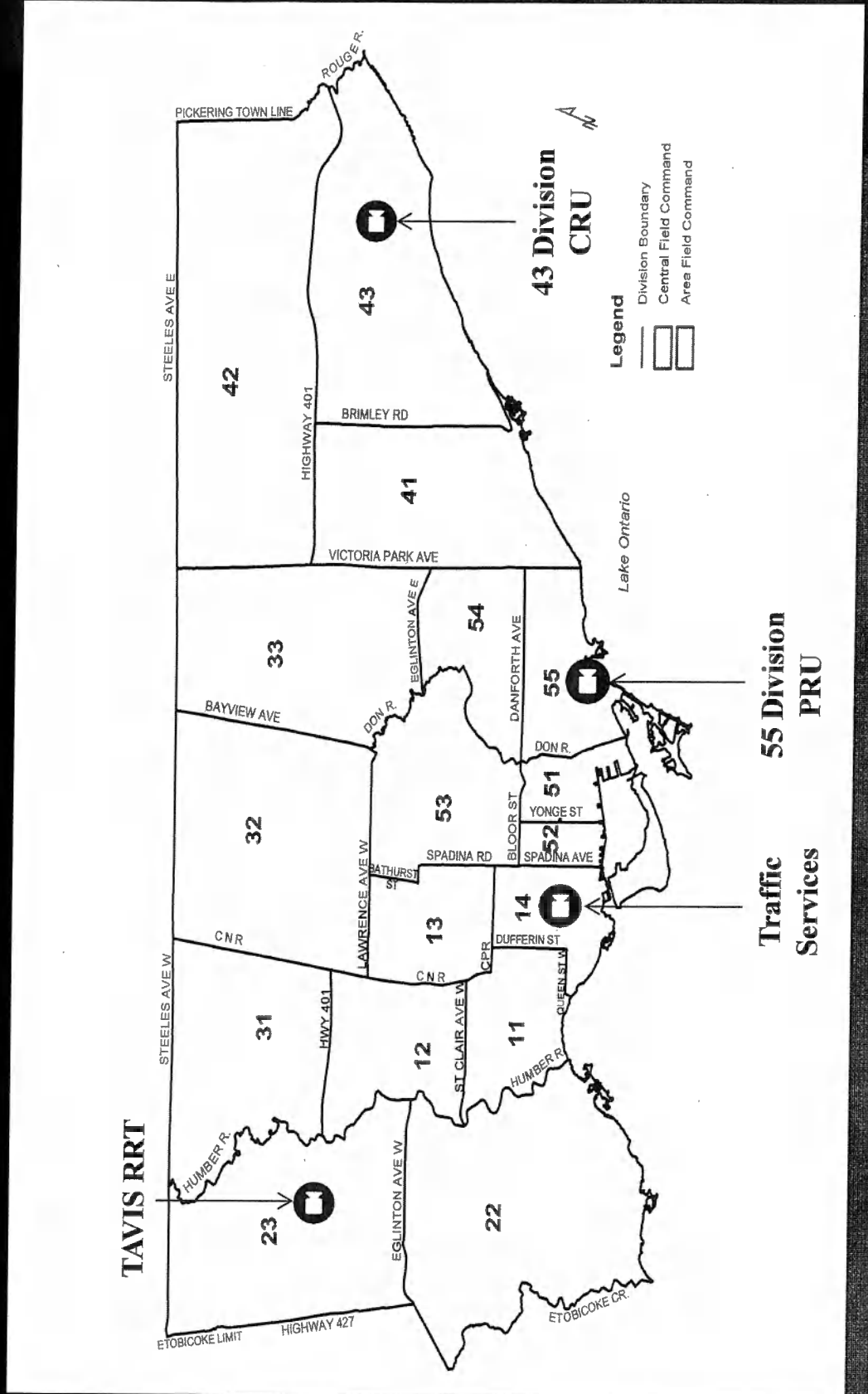
100 Cameras

2 Vendors



# BWC Project Overview

## 4 locations



# BWC - Methodology

- **Participants:**
  - BWC Officers – 55 Division PRU, 43 Division CRU, TSV Motor Squad, TAVIS Blue Team 2
  - Comparison Group – officers in similar functions and areas

# BWC Evaluation

## ◎ Primary Data Collection:

- pre/post community surveys in 55 Division, 43 Division, TAVIS areas (45,000 distributed; 7,540 returned)
- pre/post BWC and comparison officer surveys
- surveys to members of public who had contact with officer wearing BWC (4,200 mailed out; 319 with contact returned)
- calls to ITS Help Desk, requests to Video Evidence, FOI requests, officer IOD reports, public complaints, officer workload data

# BWC Evaluation - Results

## Support for BWC:

- strongly favoured in community (92% supported BWC for officers at start of pilot; 94% end of pilot)
- less support from BWC officers, but increased during pilot (46% start; 58% end)

## Main Community Perceived Benefit of BWC:

- provide unbiased account of interactions between police and members of the public (88% start of pilot; 87% end of pilot)

## Main Community Perceived Drawback of BWC:

- people might not talk to officer or report crime because will be recorded (54% start of pilot; 53% end of pilot)



# Community Support for BWC

## Community: Support for Toronto Police Officers Having Body-Worn Cameras

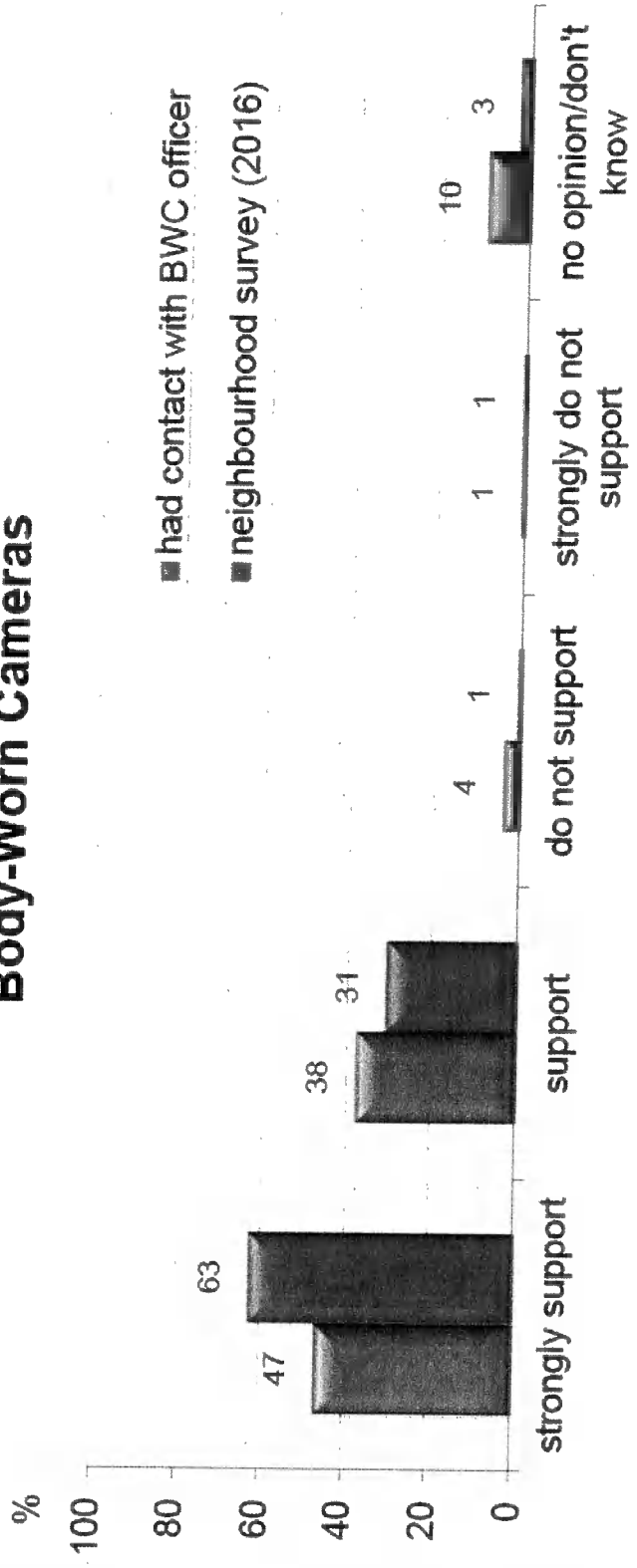


Figure 18

# Community Perceived Benefits of BWC

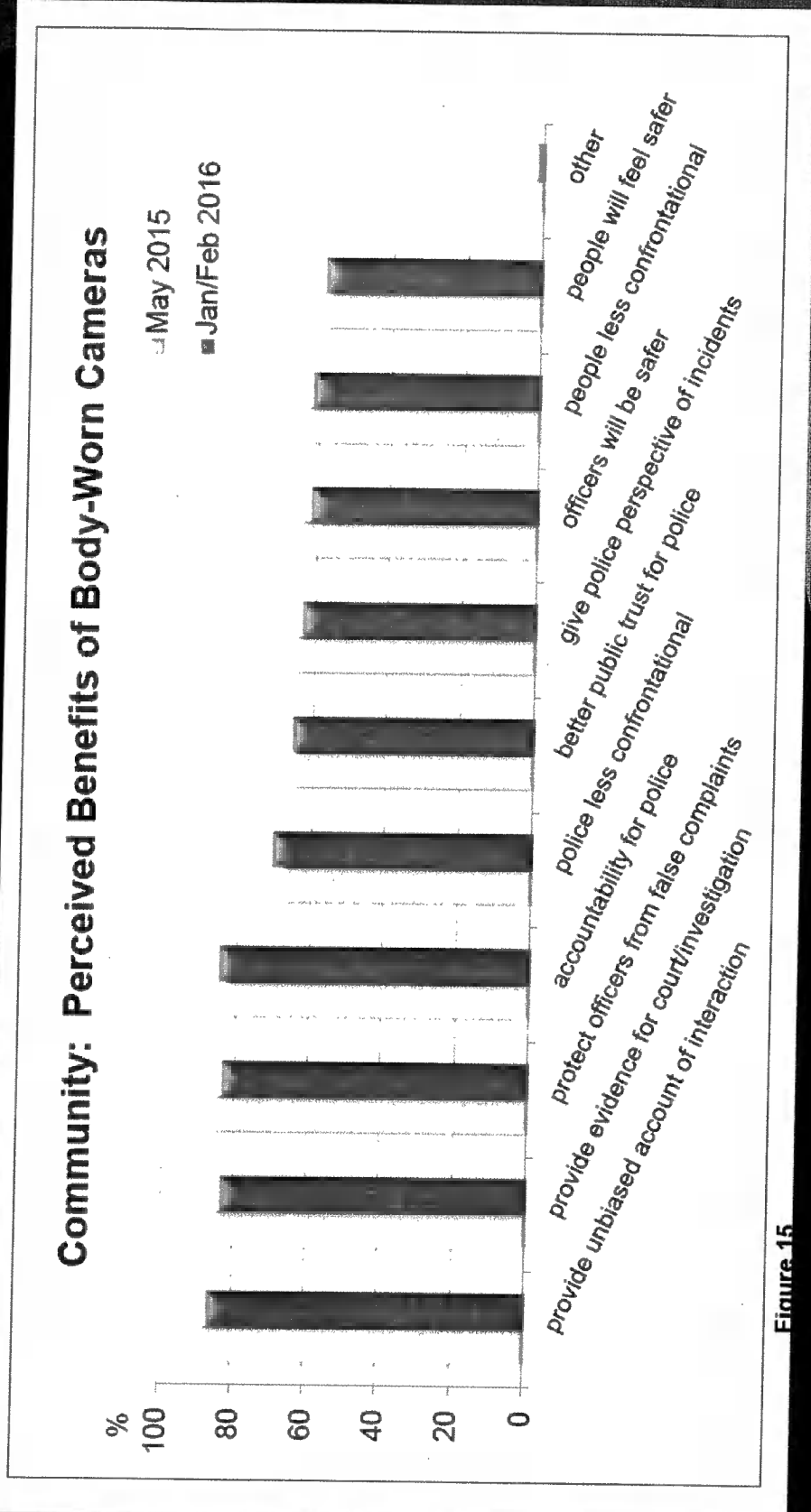


Figure 15

# Community Perceived Drawbacks of BWC

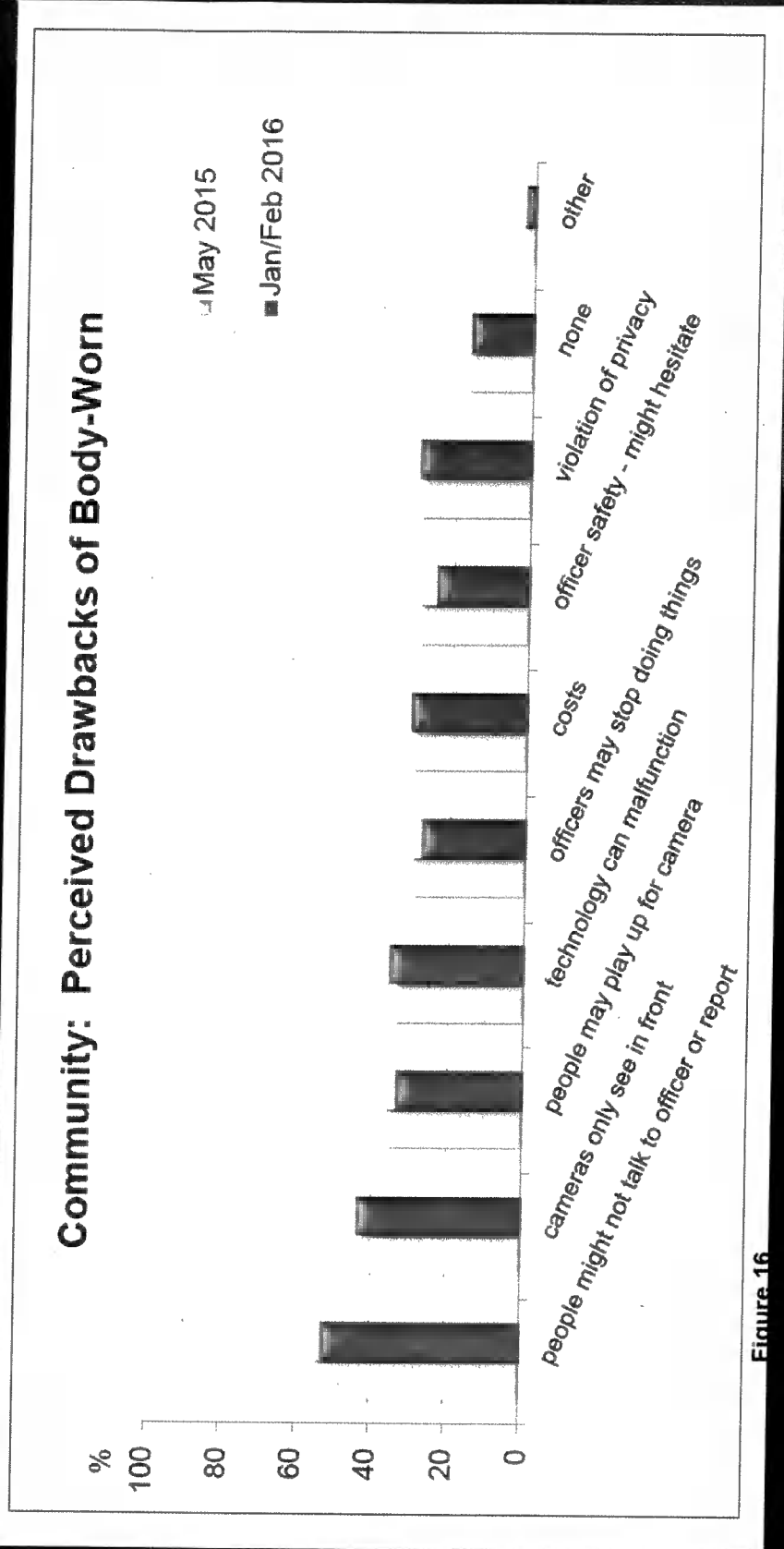


Figure 16

# BWC Evaluation - Results

## ○ Impact on Officers:

- some officer perception of improved safety, but not supported by small number of IOD reports
- some officer belief that with BWC they were more likely to clearly articulate reasons for interactions
- believed with BWC, people less willing to offer/provide information
- felt less able to use discretion when dealing with people
  - increased number of arrests and decreased POA warnings may be reflection of this
- reported increased administrative workload related to BWC – officers estimated average of 39 minutes per shift (max: up to 120 minutes per shift)
- strongly believed BWC will protect from unwarranted complaints
  - small number of actual complaints, but were indications that video helped resolve complaints both before and after they were made

# Use of Force

The number of Use of Force reports submitted by both the BWC and comparison officers during the periods examined were low. Therefore, while possibly providing an indication of trends, it is difficult to draw any conclusions. And as stated previously, with regard to any pre-pilot/pilot comparison, it should be noted that officers may not have been in the same assignment during both periods.

Use of Force Reports per Officer *	Pre-Pilot Period	Pilot Period
<b>BWC Officers</b>	.15	.12
<b>Comparison Officers</b>	.21	.20

\* Due to the difference in size of the BWC and comparison group, rates per officer are used. With regard to numbers, BWC officers submitted 13 Use of Force reports during the pre-pilot period and 11 during the pilot period.

# Complaints

The number of public complaints against both the BWC and comparison officers during the periods examined were very low. Therefore, while possibly providing an indication of trends, it is difficult to draw any conclusions. With regard to any pre-pilot/pilot comparison, it should be noted again that officers may not have been in the same assignment during both periods.

Notwithstanding these qualifications, during the pilot project, the BWC officers had a slightly higher rate of public complaints than the comparison officers, and a slightly higher rate than during the pre-pilot period. The rate of complaints for the comparison officers was the same in both periods.

Public Complaints per Officer *	Pre-Pilot Period	Pilot Period
<b>BWC Officers</b>	.03	.06
<b>Comparison Officers</b>	.04	.04

\* Due to the difference in size of the BWC and comparison group, rates per officer are used. With regard to numbers, BWC officers were subjects of 3 complaints during the pre-pilot period and 5 complaints during the pilot period.

# BWC Evaluation - Results

## ● Technology:

- number of process, technology-related issues encountered
  - battery life, camera mounting, docking, recharging, functionality, upload speed, ability to classify, ease of review, video corruption, etc.

## ● Other Impacts:

- increased workload for ITS, Video Evidence section
- based on technology/infrastructure in pilot, estimated 10-yr cost of roughly \$85 million
- very few cases involving BWC video reached court to date
  - Crown representatives believed body-worn camera video could have a positive impact
  - officers, particularly investigators, believed video valuable for investigators and court
- officers generally positive about pilot governance and training

# BWC - Conclusion

Community approval for BWC are very high  
Officer approval is high

The Service intends to issue a non-binding Request for  
Proposals



# BWC Pilot Project

