



For Immediate Release

September 12, 2016

## **Maplewood Police Department Proposes Policy for Planned Expansion of Body Worn Camera Program**

### **Public Input/Reaction Sought**

Near the end of the 2016 Minnesota Legislative session, compromise was reached on a range of elements pertaining to police Body Worn Cameras (BWC). While the law established minimum periods of data retention (how long BWC data must be held) and data classification (who and under what circumstances the data can be shared) are now legislatively defined, it also provided guidance for local law enforcement agencies in establishing a program and developing a policy. One key legislative requirement is the need to provide opportunity for public input:

- Regarding the purchase or implementation of a BWC program, and
- In the development of body worn camera program policies.

The law requires that public comment be accepted by mail, email, and that elected bodies allow for public comment at one of their regular meetings.

The Maplewood Police Department has published a policy proposal, which is publically available on the City's website ([www.maplewoodmn.gov/bwc](http://www.maplewoodmn.gov/bwc)) and is actively seeking input, feedback, and commentary. The webpage offers an e-form for submitting input, feedback, and commentary, as well as an email link.

In addition, the Maplewood City Council will be briefed on the proposed BWC policy during a Council Workshop session on September 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. In addition to the policy briefing, three invited guests will talk about the philosophical and practical application perspectives they represented on behalf of their respective organizations during the 2016 legislative process. The invited guests include: Mr. Yusef Mgeni from the St. Paul Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Mr. Matt Ehling from the MN Coalition on Government Information (MNCOGI), and Mr. Ben Feist from the MN Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). These guests will provide information that they, and the organizations they represent, believe should be considered in the development of a BWC program and program policy.

City of Maplewood  
Police Department  
1830 County Road B East  
Maplewood, MN 55109

Office 651-249-2600  
Fax 651-249-2699  
[www.maplewoodmn.gov](http://www.maplewoodmn.gov)

“While our invited speakers may take positions different than the department’s proposed policy positions, we wanted to include the varied perspectives we heard during the legislative process” said Maplewood Police Chief Paul Schnell.

During the regular City Council meeting, which begins at 7:00 p.m. on September 26th, the Council will hold a public hearing at which time members of the public are invited to provide direct comment regarding:

- Full (department-wide) implementation of a BWC program by the Maplewood Police Department,
- BWC program cost/purchasing, program purpose, and
- BWC program policies.

Both the Council Workshop and the regular Council Meeting are video streamed in real time and available for later review on the City’s website.

“I am proud that our police department has and continues to be open to scrutiny of its policy and practice, including a willingness to actively invite diverse opinions,” said Maplewood City Manager Melinda Coleman. “This level of openness models the City Council’s strategic priorities around effective governance and coordinated communications,” she added.

For additional information contact:

Chief Paul Schnell

E/M: [paul.schnell@maplewoodmn.gov](mailto:paul.schnell@maplewoodmn.gov)

Office: 651-249-2602

Cell: 651-755-1520

