

LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE
JOSEPH MEISTER



DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE
MATTHEW COMSTOCK

May 22, 2025

Mrs. Jennifer Woolridge
Manager of Operations and Special Projects
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board
4500 South 6th Street
Springfield, IL 62703

Subject: City of Lincoln Police Department 2024 In Car & Body Worn
Camera Report

Dear Mrs. Woolridge,

In August of 2020, the Lincoln Police Department received grant funding for the purchase of 17 additional in car camera systems. Every police vehicle assigned to the Patrol and School Resource Division of the Department is equipped with a Watch Guard camera. Additionally, in February of 2023, the Lincoln Police Department implemented and deployed a body worn camera program.

After the purchase of 30 Motorola V300 body worn cameras, all 28 sworn employees were issued their own body worn camera. During the implementation, the Department issued a policy, titled "Portable Audio/Video Recorders", which provides detailed instructions on the use of the body worn cameras. The policy also acknowledges and contains state law regarding the review, retention and release of recordings.

The recordings from both the in car and body worn cameras are stored on a dedicated server. Retention periods have been set for each classification of event available (ex. Felony, Misdemeanor, Traffic, etc.)

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The recording systems have required very little maintenance to date. Examples of periodic technological failures during 2024 are:

- Battery failure and replacement of BWC batteries due to heat exposure
- BWC intermittently going into "Error Mode"
- BWC intermittently going into "System Recovery"

To remedy technological failures, the city of Lincoln employs a dedicated Information Technology professional who is CJIS certified. This employee responds to the needs of the Police Department by replacing equipment, maintaining servers and resolving technological issues related to our camera equipment.

The supervisory review process is documented in the aforementioned policy. Video review requirements and best practices are contained in the policy as well. Reviews are conducted in the following situations:

- Periodically for Sergeants
- While preparing reports (must be noted in the report that video was reviewed by the reporting Officer)
- During after action review of significant events
- During training about issues related to the contents of specific videos
- During the investigation of complaints against Officers
- By supervisors, upon learning of an encounter resulting in the use of force beyond routine handcuffing procedures
- During FOIA request processing and redaction
- During legal proceedings

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph H. Meister J." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Meister
Chief of Police