

GENERAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM 17-148

TO: ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEY PERSONNEL

FROM: JOHN K. SPILLANE 
Chief Deputy District Attorney

SUBJECT: DISCOVERY- LAPD BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2017

The body-worn cameras used by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) provide pre-event buffering to automatically capture video of activities that occur *before* the officer physically activates a recording by double-pressing the “event” button on the camera. The camera enters buffering mode when the officer slides the power switch to the “on” position at the beginning of a shift. During the pre-event buffer, video is recorded without sound. When the event button is double-pressed, the cameras begin recording both video and audio. The length of the pre-event buffer is configured by the system administrator and cannot be changed by individual LAPD officers.

In 2015, when the LAPD launched its body-worn camera program, the pre-event buffer was set at 30 seconds. On November 8, 2017, the LAPD increased the pre-event buffer to two minutes. Therefore, LAPD body-worn camera recordings made on and after that date will contain two minutes of video without sound before the audio begins. To obtain an Evidence.com account, please contact the Systems Division Help Desk at (562) 403-6562.

Deputies are also reminded that law enforcement agencies have been using patrol car cameras and body worn cameras in their day-to-day police work. Additionally, some officers and deputies have their own body worn cameras or audio recording devices for civil liability reasons. In order to fulfill the mandated discovery obligations under Penal Code section 1054.1 and *Brady v. Maryland* (1963) 373 U.S. 83, it is incumbent upon prosecutors to determine whether such recordings exist. Many law enforcement agencies include in their reports that such recordings exist by either noting it in the narrative or checking a box. See GOM 13-027, 2014-18 One Minute Brief, GOM 5-099 and GOM 17-109.

jpl