

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MINIARD CULPEPPER, BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PROTOCOLS FOR RELEASING POLICE BODY CAMERA AND DASHBOARD CAMERA FOOTAGE

WHEREAS, The Boston Police Department's current protocols regarding the release of body camera and dashboard camera footage are central to questions of transparency and public trust; *and*

WHEREAS, It remains unclear whether consistent, publicly understood policies or protocols exist governing the release of body camera and dashboard camera footage, particularly following incidents involving the use of deadly force; *and*

WHEREAS, In the aftermath of recent incidents involving police use of deadly force, including the fatal shooting in Roxbury, community members and elected officials have called for greater access to such footage; *and*

WHEREAS, Requests for body camera footage have been denied in certain instances due to ongoing investigations, raising concerns about the balance between transparency and prosecutorial integrity; *and*

WHEREAS, Public confidence in law enforcement is strengthened when clear, consistent, and transparent policies govern the release of evidence following critical incidents; *and*

WHEREAS, One of the fundamental purposes of police body-worn cameras is to enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust, and the failure to release such footage can undermine these objectives, while the absence of clear protocols may risk misuse of the technology, including disproportionate impacts on over-policed communities, underscoring the need for policies that balance transparency, accountability, and privacy protections; *and*

WHEREAS, Body-worn cameras serve to protect both community members and law enforcement by creating an objective record of interactions, helping to corroborate accounts, enhance public confidence, and ensure that both residents and officers are treated fairly; *and*

WHEREAS, Public access to information following incidents involving police use of deadly force is essential to ensuring transparency, strengthening community trust, and promoting accountability; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the Boston Police Department's protocols for releasing body camera and dashboard camera footage, including policies governing access during active investigations and the clarity and consistency of such policies, and that representatives from the Boston Police Department, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency (OPAT), community stakeholders, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: March 25, 2026