



**TO:** Community Police Advisory Committee Members

**FROM:** Michael A. Ake   
Interim Chief of Police

**DATE:** July 20, 2021

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY'S POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE INQUIRIES**

This communication is in response to your inquiries related to the Tacoma Police internal investigation pertaining to Tacoma Police employee's use of body worn cameras during the January 27, 2021, incident involving Pierce County Sherriff Ed Troyer.

The internal investigation involved six Tacoma Police Officers; one lieutenant, one sergeant, one police patrol specialist, and three police patrol officers. Of those six officers; three arrived on scene without body worn cameras, and three had cameras on scene but failed to activate the camera during the incident. The three officers on scene without cameras, hurriedly left their cameras in docking stations as they responded to the call. The three officers that were on scene with cameras, failed to realize their camera was not in record mode.

The investigation concluded that all officers were within established procedures as it related to the use and activation of body worn cameras. The Tacoma Police Procedure states, in part: *No officer will be subject to discipline for failing to activate a camera for any reason for the first month or 16 shifts, whichever occurs later, after he or she is assigned to wear a BWC.*

However, as the ranking officer, the lieutenant received a Bureau level reprimand as the investigation showed he/she failed to properly supervise the use of body worn cameras while on scene.

In addition, there has been some question regarding officer(s) arriving on scene of this incident with weapons drawn and perhaps pointed at the citizen involved. Subsequent review of the on-scene Body Worn Camera video did reveal an officer with a rifle out and engaging the citizen during the initial contact of this incident. Once the scene appeared under control, the same officer was seen without the rifle.

This matter was reviewed by the Bureau Commander who concluded the Draw and Direct is a reasonable response that is within policy to the dispatched call for service and investigation.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

cc: City Manager Elizabeth Pauli