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UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

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Loyola University Chicago Department of Campus Safety Officer-Worn Body Camera Annual Report 2025

The Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) requires that law enforcement agencies using such devices furnish a yearly report accounting for the following information as outlined in the law:

(50 ILCS 706/10-25)

Sec. 10-25. Reporting.

(a) Each law enforcement agency, which employs the use of officer-worn body cameras, must provide an annual report to the Board, on or before May 1 of the year. The report shall include:

(1) a brief overview of the makeup of the agency, including the number of officers utilizing officer-worn body cameras;

(2) the number of officer-worn body cameras utilized by the law enforcement agency;

(3) any technical issues with the equipment and how those issues were remedied;

(4) a brief description of the review process used by supervisors within the law enforcement agency;

(5) for each recording used in prosecutions of conservation, criminal, or traffic offenses or municipal ordinance violations:

(A) the time, date, location, and precinct of the incident;

(B) the offense charged and the date charges were filed; and

(6) any other information relevant to the administration of the program.

(b) On or before July 30 of each year, the Board must analyze the law enforcement agency reports and provide an annual report to the General Assembly and the Governor.
(Source: P.A. 99-352, eff. 1-1-16.)

The Loyola University Chicago Department of Campus Safety developed a policy directive designed to provide appropriate guidance and instruction to uniformed law enforcement officers having access to officer-worn body cameras during the performance of their duties. The use of officer-worn body cameras is intended to enhance the mission of the Department by accurately depicting contacts between officers of the Department and the public. Cameras also serve to improve the accuracy of officer reports and testimony in court. The Department recognizes that trust and mutual respect between law enforcement agencies and the communities they protect and serve are essential to effective policing and the integrity of our criminal justice system. Our goal has been to implement a successful program with a policy in place that will enable operation at maximum efficiency while keeping mindful of any corrections necessary during this annual evaluation. In addition, our objective concentrates upon directing and safeguarding officers, the Department and the University through training and risk management assessment while protecting individual privacy consistent with state law.

Officer-Worn Body Cameras were issued to all uniformed Loyola University Chicago Campus Safety law enforcement officers and deployed in the field beginning on the first day of the new school semester, Monday August 27, 2018. Department Command and Administrative staff participated in instructional orientation with the VIEVU Senior Implementation Manager regarding the new police technology. All sworn University officers were trained on the operation of the VIEVU LE5 cameras and Department policy regarding the devices before being used. In addition, all newly hired police officers received specialized training before being assigned a camera to be used in the field. Prior to their initial utilization by the Department, (40) police officers received training conducted by both Administrative Commander Cunningham and Special Projects Sergeant Rathmell. Specifically, (43) cameras were purchased by the agency, 40 were consigned to four docking stations with (33) assigned for use by uniformed patrol officers. In addition, four cameras were marked as "Roamer" cameras used primarily by officers who work at both Lake Shore Campus in Rogers Park and Water Tower Campus in downtown Chicago during their weekly tours of duty.

The Roamer cameras have also been allocated to officers as temporary replacements when their assigned camera is either low on battery life, being repaired or inspected for any technical difficulty. Camera assignment is documented on the Watch Commander's Log for each shift as well as the Equipment Sign - Out Log. The Department invested in (11) more cameras and another docking station as inventory to accommodate any other uniformed officers working on behalf of the University. Policy

articulates that all off-duty personnel working security details for Special Events staffing will not wear Officer-Worn Body Cameras.

Specifically, several technical issues with equipment were observed by officers using the devices daily. As set forth by policy, the Department shall ensure proper care and maintenance of officer-worn body cameras. Upon becoming aware, officers must as soon as practical, document and notify the appropriate supervisor of any technical difficulties, failures or problems with the officer-worn body camera or associated equipment. Upon receiving notice, the appropriate supervisor shall make every reasonable effort to correct and repair any of the officer-worn body camera equipment. Officers promptly reported any camera problems to their immediate supervisors who notified the Special Projects Sergeant to arrange remedy in as expedient a manner as possible.

In addition, officers expressed uncertainty over shutting off the buffering mode (flashing green) light when placing the devices into the docking stations at the end of their respective Watches. The vendor stated that it is not necessary to turn off the cameras before docking. Most law enforcement agencies prefer to allow officers to become accustomed to the on/off button to train themselves via muscle memory on the camera's operation. Plug-in chargers for the nine squad cars are still available in all marked patrol units so officers can re-charge their camera batteries if they are working longer shifts.

Accordingly, in adhering to our commitment to quality assurance, the review process used by supervisors in the Department entails the following criteria: Department supervisors shall ensure officers equipped with officer-worn body cameras utilize them in accordance with Department policies and training. At least on a monthly basis, each Department Lieutenant shall randomly review three recordings of law enforcement-related encounters or activities pertaining to officers under the Lieutenant's purview, in order to ensure that equipment is operating properly, that officers are using the cameras appropriately and in accordance with Department policies and training, and to identify any areas in which additional training or guidance may be required. Lieutenants shall document their review when completed. Otherwise, a Department supervisor shall review only those recordings relevant to their investigative scope and conduct further investigation that he or she deems appropriate. The Department supervisor is responsible for forwarding information pertaining to his or her investigation via the chain of command. Sergeants are also authorized access for quality assurance purposes. Lieutenants documented their three-monthly reviews on a regular basis and notified the Special Projects Sergeant who chronicles the reviews. In addition, since the inception of the program, the Loyola University Chicago Campus Safety addresses any issues related to the implementation of the body cameras at the weekly investigations meeting to ensure that the best quality evidence is being consistently maintained. Supervisors had also been instructed to turn on each device from their respective Watches every Sunday to ensure all cameras are functioning properly.

On Thursday March 10, 2022, Loyola University Chicago Department of Campus Safety transitioned from VIEVU to Axon Officer-Worn Body Cameras. At that time, 36 cameras were specifically assigned to sworn officers. Four Roamer cameras were also deployed for use in the field. Each officer received one plastic pocket mount and one magnet mount for the new product. All the stored recordings saved as evidence have now migrated over from the former VIEVU system to our present Axon storage system for the police department. All officers including supervisors were instructed on how to turn cameras on/off, increase volume settings, start/end a recording and dock the devices. Again, supervisors were trained in reviewing recordings.

On Monday October 31, 2022, Loyola University Department of Campus Safety expanded police service to cover another location at the Health Science Campus in Maywood, Illinois. Additional officer-worn body cameras were added to accommodate the new location. In total, (51) cameras were assigned. Of those, (42) cameras were specifically assigned to sworn police officers. As a supplement, five cameras were utilized as "Roamers" in the event an officer is working a different campus or in case of a technical issue or problem. In all, four other cameras were listed as "open" or unassigned in the docking cradles to be used as inventory for newly hired officers in the future. One plastic pocket mount and one magnet mount were also given to each officer.

In terms of summarizing any ongoing technical issues regarding our agency's annual report for 2026, supervisors have not observed any consistent problems. They have reminded officers to attach camera mounts to their outside garments to provide a clear and unobstructed view during camera activations. There has been no documented loss of recording evidence and no interruptions in service.

Over the course of late 2024 into 2025 as part of our agency's contractual agreement, Axon provided an upgrade from Axon Body Worn 3 to Axon Body Worn 4 cameras for our department. Both the cameras and docking station cradles are slightly larger for storage purposes. In terms of functionality, the Axon 4 has the power button at the bottom instead of on top. This hardware refreshment included (67) Body Cameras, (10) Eight Bay Docking Stations and (67) new plastic camera mounts. It should be noted that our old camera mounts also fit these newly issued devices. The upgrade included new adapters. The improvement provides us with better connectivity along with wider and sharper resolutions on recordings. These new cameras were rolled out on December 6, 2024. There are (55) cameras total registered in use. (48) are assigned to sworn police officers. (7) cameras are either Roamers or Unassigned to accommodate additional personnel, when necessary, at one of our three campuses.

Equally important, all encounters captured on saved flagged recordings have been categorized and preserved for the statutory period as outlined for retention requirements under the State of Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act. Officer-Worn Body Camera recordings obtained by subpoena or used in the prosecution of any criminal cases involving the Loyola University Chicago Department of Campus Safety

over the past year since the submission of our last annual report has been documented below.

Incidents (2025)

Between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025, Loyola University Chicago Police Department reports (14) incidents leading to (14) offenses charged, which include two Criminal Sexual Assaults, one Kidnapping, three Criminal Trespass To Land, two Public Indecency, one Burglary, one Criminal Damage to Government Property, one Aggravated Battery, one Domestic Battery, one Battery and one Strong Arm Robbery.

Technical Issues (2025)

Loyola University Chicago Police Department reports several technical issues including an Axon Evidence.Com outage January 20 – 21, 2026. The performance degradation was mitigated without any loss of recording evidence. On October 7, 2025, Officer – Worn Body Camera recordings were hindered by an Axon internal server error. The agency was unable to send download links temporarily. Service was restored on October 8, 2025. These incidents were addressed with Axon Technical Support. Twice during the year two Officer – Worn Body Cameras at the downtown campus would not turn on. After employing a hard reset with a thumb pressed down on the on / off button for 30 seconds, the cameras activated and functioned normally. Officers were reminded a couple times during the winter months to utilize an exterior coat camera mount, so no recordings are blocked by jacket material while responding to calls for service.

Loyola University of Chicago Department of Campus Safety currently utilizes fifty-five (55) Axon Body 4 body worn cameras. Of those, forty-eight (48) are assigned to sworn police officers.

In conclusion, please find attached the requested Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board annual report required by law pursuant to 50 ILCS 706/10-25. This document should address any other information deemed relevant to the administration of the program.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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