

## Video Cameras in MPD Police Cruisers

(Latest Update February 2013)

Recommendation	Status
Establish a pilot program to install Mobile Video Recorder (MVR) technology, or video cameras, in 750 police cruisers, approximately 10-20% of the current MPD fleet, with accompanying infrastructure that ensures that officers are trained to operate the camera systems and transmit data. The infrastructure must also provide procedures for data management.	<p><b>Not Adopted.</b> MPD previously reported conducting a pilot program in MPD's Narcotics and Special Investigations Division. MPD published a Division Memorandum (NSID 09-01) to guide operations during the pilot program. MPD reports that as of August 2010, a pilot project of the In-dash Mobile Video Recorder system was complete. MPD tested two systems, and identified the better performing system. MPD states that very few incidents were captured on video, and that the cost of placing the preferred system in 7% of MPD's fleet would be approximately one million dollars. Citing recent budget cuts and budget priorities, MPD reports that there are "no plans in the foreseeable future to implement such a costly system with limited benefits."</p>
Draft a comprehensive policy regarding MVR use by MPD officers that ensures legal and procedural safeguards, such as: prevent arbitrary enforcement, provide notice to citizens, address individual privacy concerns, and inform officers of the consequences resulting from abuse of the system by individual officers.	
Provide actual notice to individuals under MVR surveillance by (1) generally publicizing the adoption of MVRs, and (2) personally notifying each person subject to recording whenever practicable and at the first opportunity to do so.	
Develop a comprehensive program that addresses the storage, management, and use of MVR data, as well as training for staff regarding management.	
Develop a comprehensive retention policy for MVR data that includes formal guidelines for data retention for a reasonable period of time and data disposition, as well as establishing the Chief's authority to extend or amend guidelines. The policy should reflect a balance between the need to retain evidence for possible adjudication and privacy concerns. Data retention time periods should be tailored to the expected use of the data, such as evidentiary support in criminal case or in cases in which MPD may be subject to civil liability, as well as for training purposes. However, a maximum storage time period of three years is recommended, subject to extension by the Chief.	
Establish an MVR auditing system to ensure that each officer is operating the equipment, recording data, and uploading information in accordance with MPD policies. Periodic checks should be accomplished to ascertain if officers are behaving on camera in a manner consistent with MPD officer standards. Technology that encodes video footage with officer identification codes could facilitate periodic review. If MPD funds are not adequate to establish and maintain an MVR program, seek appropriations from the District council and apply for grant funding from federal and private sources.	