



# Atlanta Police Department Body-Worn Cameras

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# Audit Objectives

- Do body-worn camera users comply with the Atlanta Police Department's standard operating procedures?
- What metrics should the Atlanta Police Department consider when assessing officers' compliance with policy and best practices?



# Methodology

- Interviewed subject matter experts from the Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta Citizen Review Board, and Atlanta Police Foundation about body-worn camera programs
- Reviewed city code and departmental policies to understand requirements
- Researched best practices for body-worn cameras and related controls
- Analyzed system data for capturing videos compared with the CAD (computer-aided dispatch) activity

# Methodology (cont.)

- Analyzed video upload and categorization by role to ensure compliance with policy, particularly for use of force incidents
- Analyzed Evidence.com system controls to determine whether videos were retained in accordance with retention guidelines and whether videos could be deleted by unauthorized users
- Observed roll call and ride-alongs with police officers from various zones to understand how body-worn cameras are used on patrol

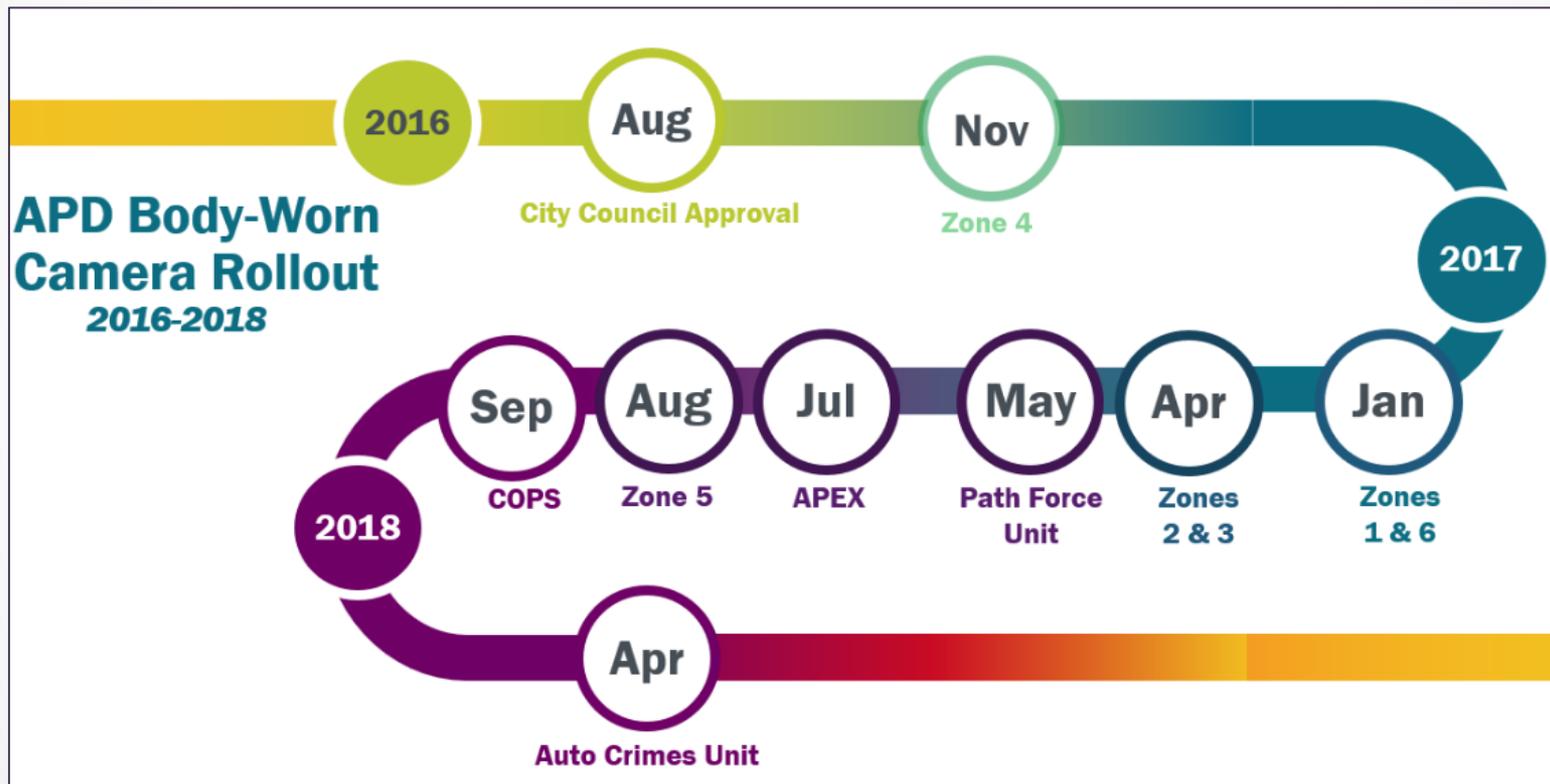
# Body-Worn Camera Captures Officer's Field of Vision



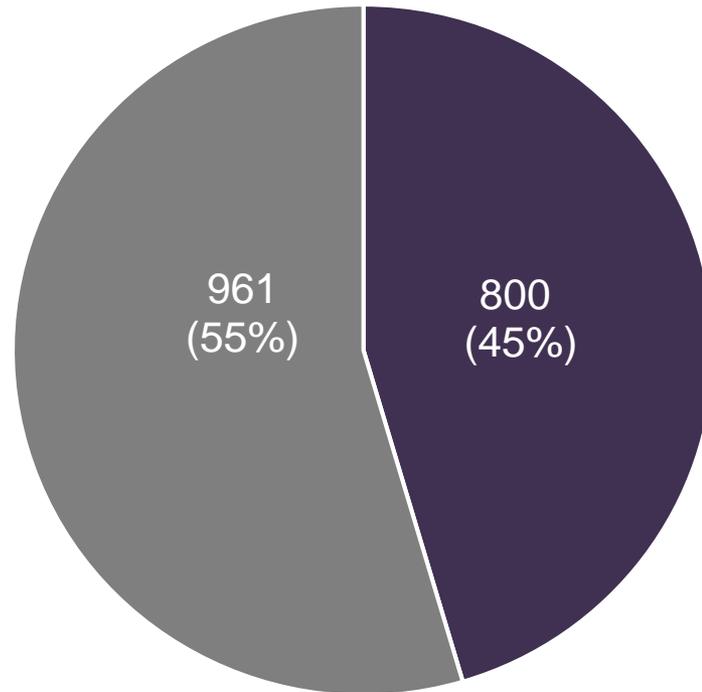
Body worn camera attaches to uniform with magnetic clip



# Body-Worn Camera Program Was Implemented in Stages

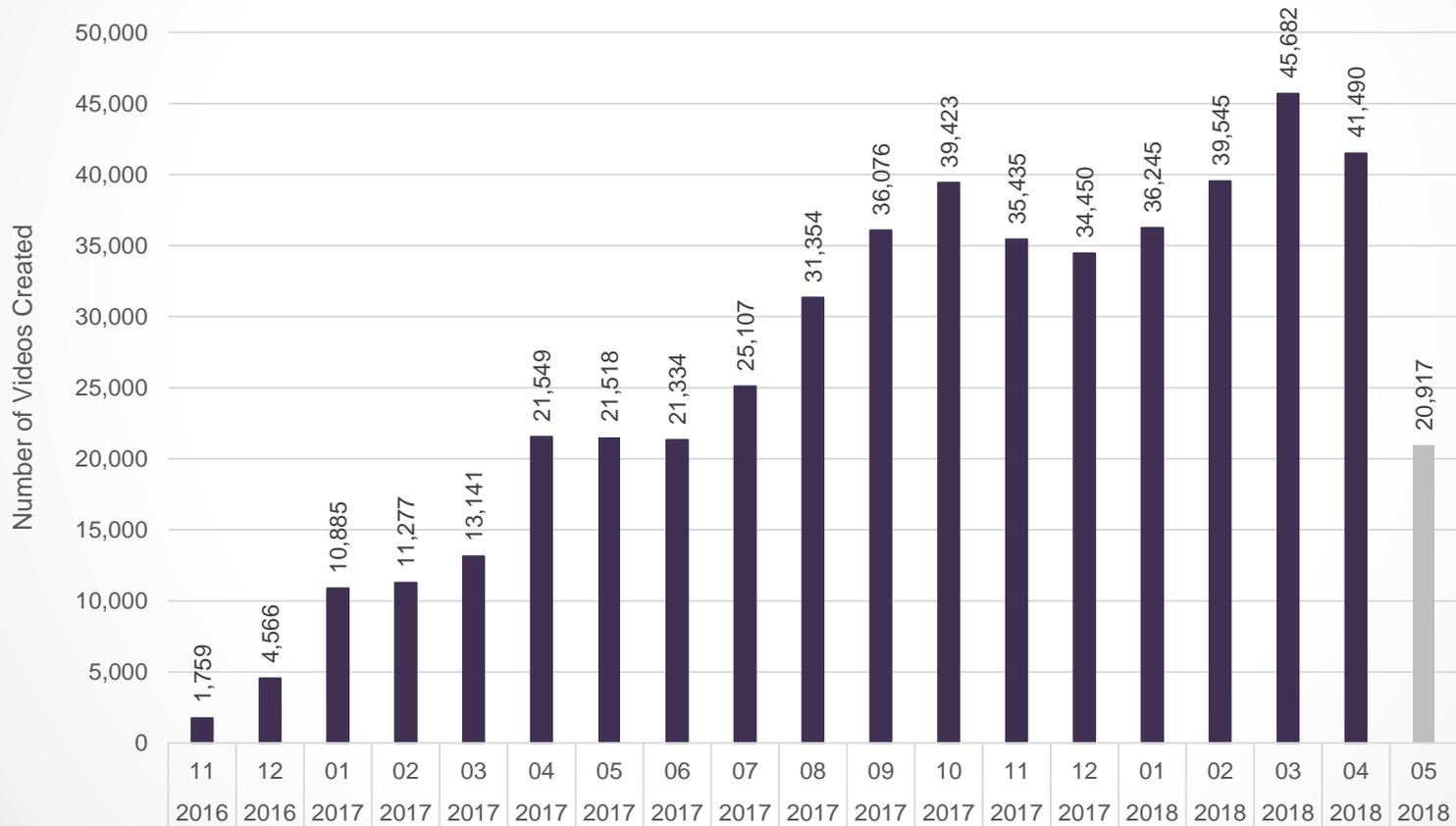


# Almost Half of Sworn Officers Are Assigned Body-Worn Cameras



■ Body-Worn Camera User ■ Non Body-Worn Camera User

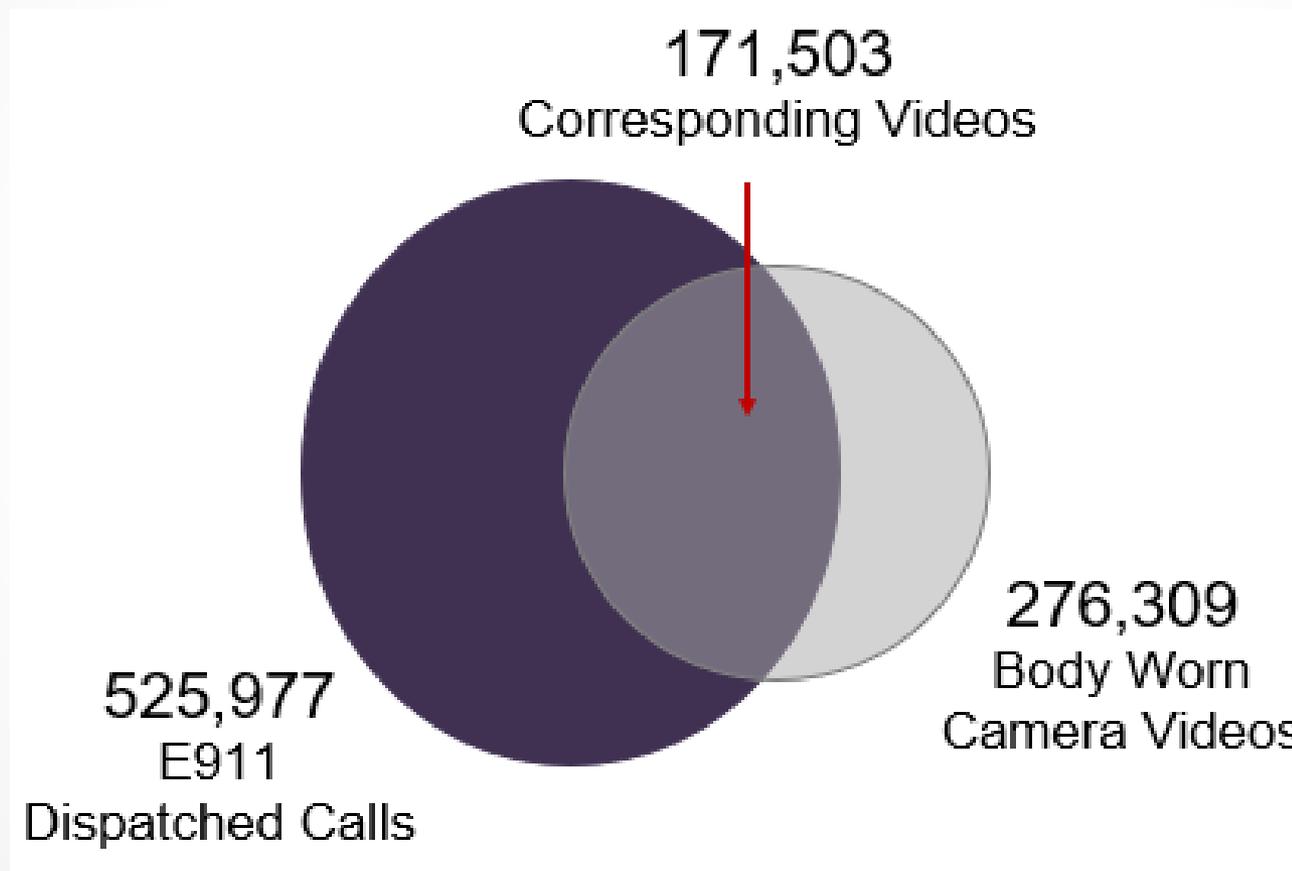
# Officers Have Created Nearly 500,000 Recordings Since the Program Began



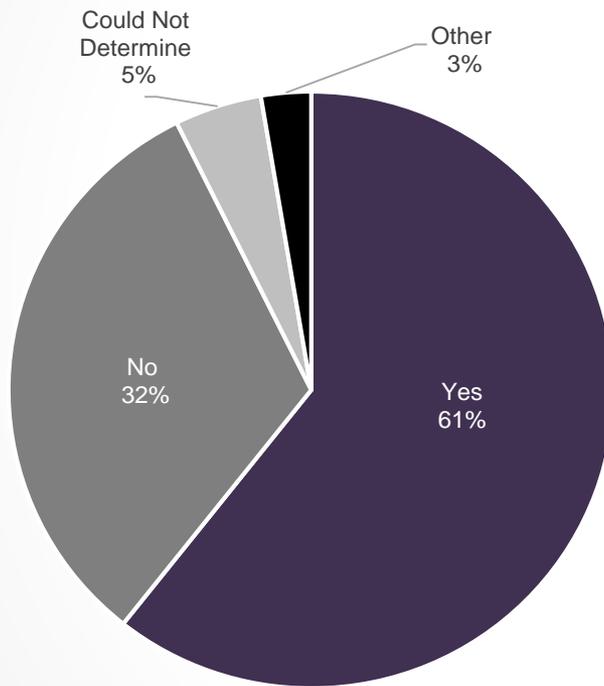
# What We Found

- Officers are not using body-worn cameras as intended
  - Officers captured video for 33% of officer-dispatched calls from November 2017 through May 2018; expectation is 80%
  - Officers delayed activation and prematurely deactivated cameras for many incidents
- Officers uploaded most videos according to procedures
- Officers categorized almost all videos, but could improve the accuracy of assigned categories
- Supervisors and compliance staff are not reviewing videos for compliance with body-camera policies
- System controls generally complied with retention policy, but 64 videos were deleted by supervisors

# Most E911 Dispatched Calls Had No Body-Worn Camera Footage

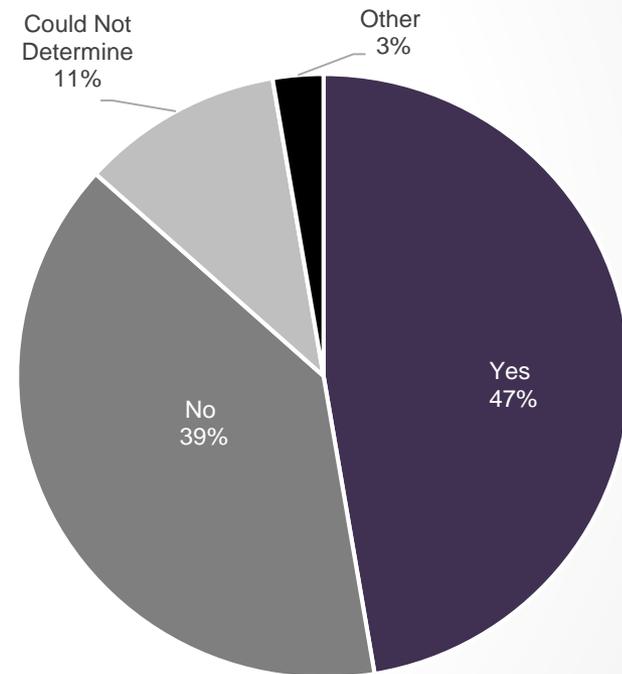


# Officers Failed to Activate and Deactivate Cameras According to Policy



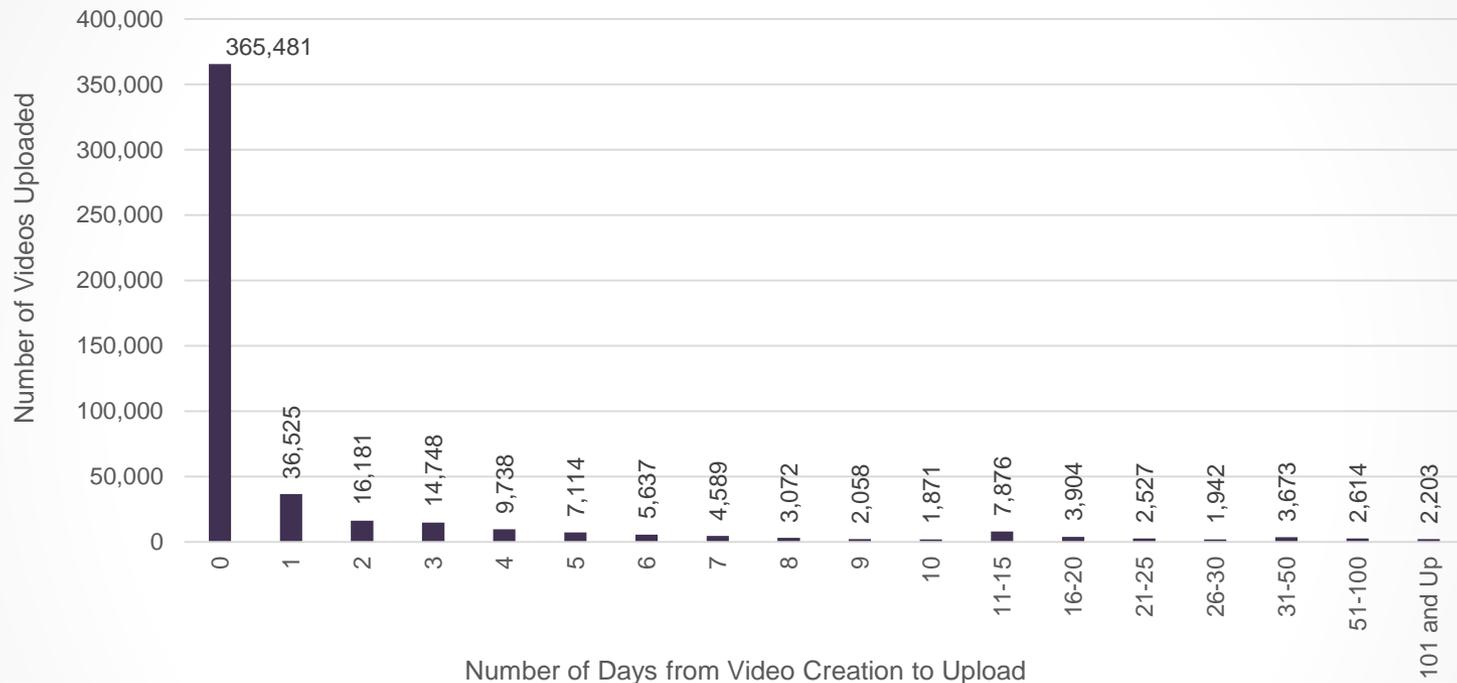
Camera **Activation** Consistent with Procedures

150 Total  
Videos Sampled



Camera **Deactivation** Consistent with Procedures

# Officers Uploaded and Categorized Almost All Videos Captured



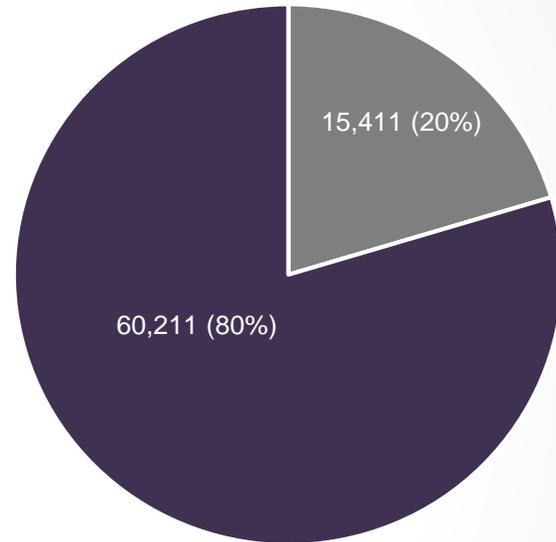
- Three-quarters (74%) of videos captured between November 2016 and May 2018 were uploaded within one day of creation.
- One-fourth of all use of force videos were uploaded by supervisors, as required by the department.

# It is Unclear How Supervisors Assess Compliance with Camera Policies

- Supervisors streamed 8,372 (2%) of the 491,753 videos created from November 2016 through May 2018.
- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring officers' compliance with body-worn camera policies , but departmental policies do not explain how this is to be accomplished.

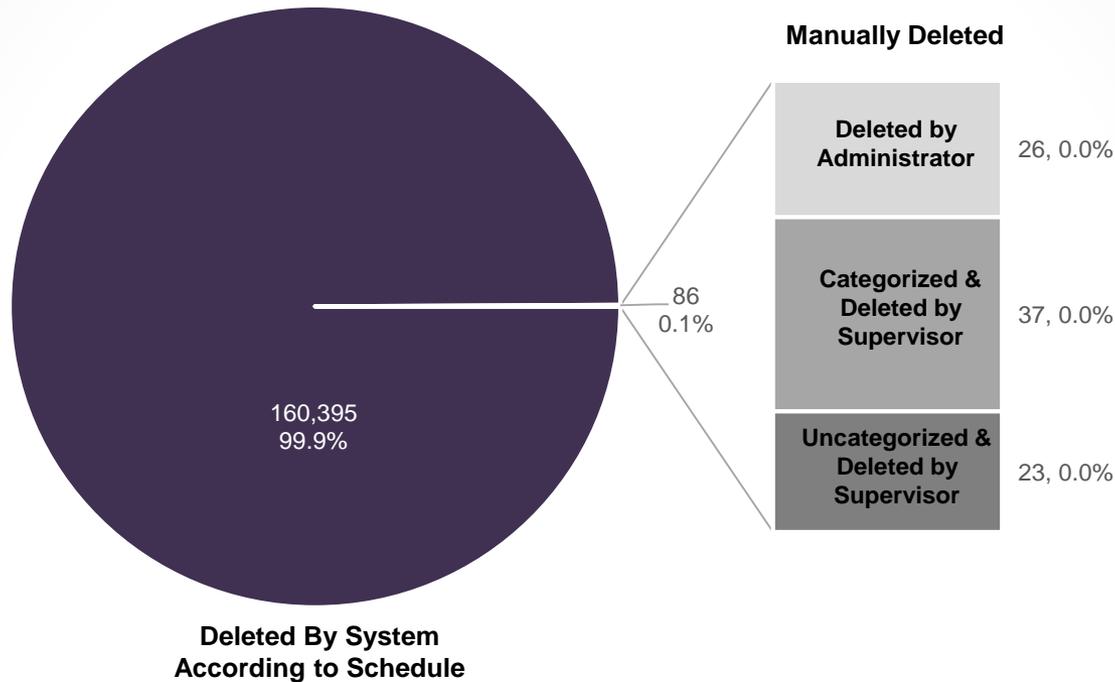
# Users Failed to Document Video Access

- Only 20% of the 75,622 videos streamed by officers and other users between November 2016 and May 2018 included justification notes.
- Failure to comply may violate citizens' privacy and disrupt the chain of custody, and may affect the evidentiary value of the video evidence in court proceedings.



- Videos Accessed With Justification
- Videos Accessed Without Justification

# Some Manual Deletions Bypassed System Controls



- Video management system deleted 160,395 (99%) of 160,480 deleted videos according to retention schedule
- 86 videos were manually deleted by administrators and supervisors before the scheduled deletion date

# Compliance Administrators Could Improve Training and Monitoring Efforts

- Compliance staff are required to review videos to monitor compliance with camera policies and ensure video footage is not prematurely deleted.
  - Between November 2016 and May 2018, the compliance team streamed 1,325 videos - less than 1% of the total videos captured during that period.
  - The compliance team verified only 1,543 of the 155,094 videos deleted between May 2017 and May 2018 to verify that videos were categorized correctly.
  - Officers have not received refresher training since the body-worn camera program was first implemented in late 2016.

# Recommendations

1. Clarify the policy to state whether all officers responding to an incident must record body camera video
2. Update the policy to remove the requirement that supervisors upload videos of use-of-force incidents and to require supervisors to review the audit trail to ensure the involved officer has not accessed the video prior to writing the report
3. Clarify criteria for labeling and categorizing videos in standard operating procedures
4. Establish a formal process for zone supervisors' periodic reviews, including the number and selection of videos, frequency, and required documentation

# Recommendations (cont.)

5. Conduct monthly reviews of user roles and permissions to determine if non-administrator users can delete videos
6. Enforce policies requiring the compliance team to review all deleted footage prior to deletion for miscategorization
7. Develop standard justifications for accessed footage to ensure compliance with the policy

# Recommendations (cont.)

Monitor and track the following performance metrics:

The number and percentage of:

8. videos captured compared to the number of dispatched calls, using the 80% threshold as a comparative benchmark
9. videos uploaded to the system within one day
10. uncategorized videos
11. videos streamed by supervisors
12. videos deleted before the retention schedule
13. videos audited by the compliance team
14. audited videos that complied with activation procedures
15. audited videos that complied with deactivation procedures
16. audited videos categorized accurately

Questions?

