

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

Sheriff Shawn Larsen
Morrison County Sheriff's Office
213 1st Ave. SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Dear Sheriff Larsen:

An independent audit of the Morrison County Sheriff's Office Portable Recording System (body-worn cameras (BWCs)) was conducted on July 12, 2024. The objective of the audit was to verify Morrison County Sheriff's Office compliance with Minnesota Statutes §§13.825 and 626.8473.

Data elements the audit includes:

Minnesota Statute §13.825

- Data Classification
- Retention of Data
- Access by Data Subjects
- Inventory of Portable Recording System Technology
- Use of Agency-Issued Portable Recording Systems
- Authorization to Access Data
- Sharing Among Agencies

Minnesota Statute §626.8473

- Public Comment
- Body-worn Camera Policy

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office is located in Little Falls, Minnesota and employs twenty-eight (28) peace officers. The Morrison County Sheriff's Office utilizes Axon body-worn cameras and Evidence.com cloud-based evidence management storage. The audit covers the period April 6, 2022, through June 30, 2024.

Audit Requirement: Data Classification

Determine if the data collected by BWCs are appropriately classified.

Morrison County Sheriff's Office BWC data is presumptively private. All data collected during the audit period is classified as private or nonpublic data. The Morrison County Sheriff's Office had no incidents of the discharge of a firearm by a peace officer, use of force that resulted in substantial bodily harm, requests from data subjects for the data to be made accessible to the public, or court orders directing the agency to release the BWC data to the public.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Retention of Data

Determine if the data collected by BWCs are appropriately retained and destroyed in accordance with statutes.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office utilizes the General Records Retention Schedule for Minnesota Counties and agency specified retention periods in Evidence.com. At the conclusion of a BWC recording, officers assign metadata, including an Evidence.com category, to the recording. Each Evidence.com category has an associated retention period. Upon reaching its retention date, evidence is systematically deleted. Deletion of the data is captured in the audit trail.

A report was produced from Evidence.com for all BWC data collected during the audit period. Randomly selected records from the Evidence Created Report were reviewed, and the date and time the data was created was verified against the deletion date. Each of the records were deleted or maintained in accordance with the record retention. All records were maintained for at least the minimum ninety (90) days required by statute. Randomly selected audit trail reports were verified against the Evidence Created Report, and each record was deleted or maintained in accordance with the record retention. The Morrison County Sheriff's Office had received no requests from data subjects to retain BWC data beyond the applicable retention period.

Supervisors monitor BWC data for proper categorization to ensure BWC data are appropriately retained and destroyed.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Access by Data Subjects

Determine if individuals who are the subject of collected data have access to the data, and if the data subject requests a copy of the data, other individuals who do not consent to its release are redacted.

BWC data is available to data subjects and access may be requested by submission of a Morrison County Sheriff's Office Body Camera Video Request Form. During the audit period, the Morrison County Sheriff's Office had received both requests to view and requests for copies of BWC video from data subjects. Data subjects who had not consented to release of the data were redacted. A copy of the redacted video is stored in Evidence.com along with the original copy. The Evidence.com audit trail provides documentation of data provided via Evidence.com link. Data requests are documented in the records management system media or dissemination log.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Inventory of Portable Recording System Technology

Determine the total number of recording devices owned and maintained by the agency; a daily

record of the total number of recording devices actually deployed and used by officers, the policies and procedures for use of portable recording systems by required by section 626.8473; and the total amount of recorded audio and video collected by the portable recording system and maintained by the agency, the agency's retention schedule for the data, the agency's procedures for destruction of the data, and that the data are available to the public.

Morrison County Sheriff's Office BWC inventory consists of thirty (30) devices. An inventory report produced from Evidence.com detailed the total number of recording devices owned and maintained by the agency. The inventory included the device model, serial number, device name, the officer assigned to the device, date of last upload, device status, error status, firmware version, warranty date, date last docked, and camera state.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office BWC policy governs the use of portable recording systems by peace officers while in the performance of their duties. The policy requires officers to confirm their BWC is operational in accordance with manufacturer specifications and department procedures and training. Malfunctions, damage, loss or theft of BWC equipment must be immediately reported to a supervisor or BWC administrator.

Peace officers were trained by Axon and Axon Academy on use of the BWC system during implementation. Newly hired officers are trained on the use of the BWC system by Axon Academy.

Officers working on randomly selected dates, and randomly selected calls for service, were verified against the Evidence Created Report and confirmed that BWCs are being deployed and officers are wearing and activating their BWCs. A comparison between the total number of BWC videos created per quarter and total calls for shows a consistent collection of BWC data.

The Evidence Created Report details the total amount of BWC data created, stored/maintained, and deleted.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office utilizes the General Records Retention Schedule for Minnesota Counties and agency specified retention periods in Evidence.com. BWC video is fully deleted from Evidence.com upon reaching its scheduled deletion date. Metadata and audit trails are maintained in Evidence.com after deletion of BWC audio and video. BWC data is available upon request, and access may be requested by submission of a Morrison County Sheriff's Office Body Camera Video Request Form.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Use of Agency-Issued Portable Recording Systems

Determine if peace officers are only allowed to use portable recording systems issued and maintained by the officer's agency.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office BWC policy states that officers may use only department-issued BWC equipment in the performance of official duties for the agency or when otherwise

performing authorized law enforcement services as an employee of the department.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Authorization to Access Data

Determine if the agency complies with sections 13.05, Subd. 5, and 13.055 in the operation of portable recording systems and in maintaining portable recording system data.

Supervisors conduct reviews of BWC data to ensure BWC data is properly categorized and that BWCs are being used in compliance with policy.

Nonpublic BWC data is only available to persons whose work assignment reasonably requires access to the data. User access to BWC data is managed by the assignment of roles and permissions in Evidence.com. Permissions are based on staff work assignments. Roles and Permissions are administered by command staff. Access to Evidence.com is password protected and requires dual authentication.

The agency's BWC Policy governs access to BWC data. Agency personnel may access BWC data only when there is a legitimate law enforcement or data administration purpose for doing so. Agency personnel are prohibited from accessing BWC data for non-business reasons and from sharing the data for non-law enforcement related purposes. User access to data is captured in the audit trail. The BWC policy states that unauthorized access to or disclosure of BWC data may constitute misconduct and subject individuals to disciplinary action and criminal penalties pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13.09.

When BWC data is deleted from Evidence.com, its contents cannot be determined. The Morrison County Sheriff's Office has had no security breaches. A BCA CJIS Security audit was conducted in September of 2021.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Sharing Among Agencies

Determine if nonpublic BWC data is shared with other law enforcement agencies, government entities, or federal agencies.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office BWC policy allows for the sharing of data with other law enforcement agencies for legitimate law enforcement purposes and for the sharing of data with prosecutors, courts and other criminal justice entities as provided by law. Agencies seeking access to BWC data submit a written request. Sharing of data is captured in the audit trail. Sharing of data is documented in the records management system media and dissemination log. The Evidence.com Sharing Audit Report provides documentation of shared data.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Biennial Audit

Determine if the agency maintains records showing the date and time the portable recording system data were collected, the applicable classification of the data, how the data are used, and whether data are destroyed as required.

Evidence.com and the Evidence Created Report document the date and time portable recording system data were collected and deleted. All BWC data collected during the audit period is classified as private or nonpublic data. The Evidence.com audit trail documents how the data are used. The audit trail is maintained in Evidence.com after deletion of video. The Evidence.com audit trail documents each and every action taken from the creation of the recording to its deletion, as well as access to the audit trail after BWC has been deleted.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Portable Recording System Vendor

Determine if portable recording system data stored in the cloud, is stored in accordance with security requirements of the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services Division Security Policy 5.4 or its successor version.

An Axon CJIS Compliance White paper outlines the specific security policies and practices for Evidence.com and how they are compliant with the CJIS Security Policy. Axon has signed the CJIS Security Addendum in all states and has performed statewide CJIS-related vendor requirements in Minnesota. Axon has incorporated the CJIS Security Addendum by reference into the Axon Master Services and Purchase Agreement. Axon maintains signed CJIS Security Addendum certification pages for Axon personnel. Authorized Axon personnel are required to complete Level 4 CJIS Security Training upon assignment and biennially thereafter.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Public Comment

Determine if the law enforcement agency provided an opportunity for public comment before it purchased or implemented a portable recording system and if the governing body with jurisdiction over the budget of the law enforcement agency provided an opportunity for public comment at a regularly scheduled meeting.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office solicited for public comment on the County's website. The Morrison County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing at their December 9, 2021, meeting.

No discrepancies noted.

Audit Requirement: Body-worn Camera Policy

Determine if a written policy governing the use of portable recording systems has been

established and is enforced.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office has established and enforces a BWC policy. The policy was compared to the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 626.8473. The agency's policy includes all minimum requirements of Minn. Stat. § 626.8473, Subd. 3 that were in effect prior to August 1, 2023, but does not include the requirements that became effective on August 1, 2023. The BWC policy is posted on the agency's website.

Discrepancy noted.

This report was prepared exclusively for the County of Morrison and Morrison County Sheriff's Office by Lynn Lembcke Consulting. The findings in this report are impartial and based on information and documentation provided and examined.

Dated: November 2, 2024

Lynn Lembcke Consulting

Lynn Lembcke