

**SAINT JOHN BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION – MINUTES
MAY 11, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
MEETING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION**

PRESENT

Commissioners

Edward Keyes, Chair
Douglas Jones, Vice Chair
Michael Costello, Secretary
Gary Sullivan
Maiké White
Katelin Dean
Tamara Kelly

Absent

Greg Norton

Staff

Chief Tony Hayes
Craig Lavigne, Asst. Comptroller Finance, CSJ
Doug Evans, Legal Counsel
Daphne Waye, Recording Secretary

Media

Michael Landry, Brunswick News
Tamara Steele, CHSJ / Wave News

Presenter

Ryan Hillier

1. Call to Order

The Chair mentioned that the May 11, 2021, Open Session meeting was being recorded and called the MS Teams meeting to order.

Chair Keyes stated that May 9 – 15, 2021 is **National Police Week**, which was proclaimed during the May 3, 2021, Common Council meeting on behalf of the Saint John Police Force. It is a seven-day public awareness campaign that encourages new connections between police and the communities they serve.

This year's national theme 'Working together to keep our communities safe' highlights being an important public safety partner which involves a collaborative effort within policies agencies and between police services, first responders, as well as social and community organizations to make the first contact meaningful and achieve the best possible outcome.

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Chair Keyes wanted to recognize all staff of the Saint John Police Force, both sworn and civilian, and thanked them for their dedication and commitment to the community and to each other.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.01 Minutes of April 13, 2021

On motion of Commissioner Dean
Seconded by Commissioner Kelly

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the April 13, 2021, Open Session meeting of the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners, be approved. (O2105-01)

Question being taken, the motion was carried.

3. Adoption of Agenda – May 11, 2021

A report was received regarding ‘2021 Vehicle Replacement’ which will be added to the Open Session Agenda as Item 8.05.

On motion of Commissioner Dean
Seconded by Commissioner Kelly

RESOLVED, that the Agenda for the May 11, 2021, meeting of the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners be adopted with the addition of Item 8.05. (O2105-02)

Question being taken, the motion was carried.

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

4.01 There were no members in a conflict of interest with any item on the agenda.

5. Consent Agenda

5.01 There were no items on the May 11, 2021, Consent Agenda.

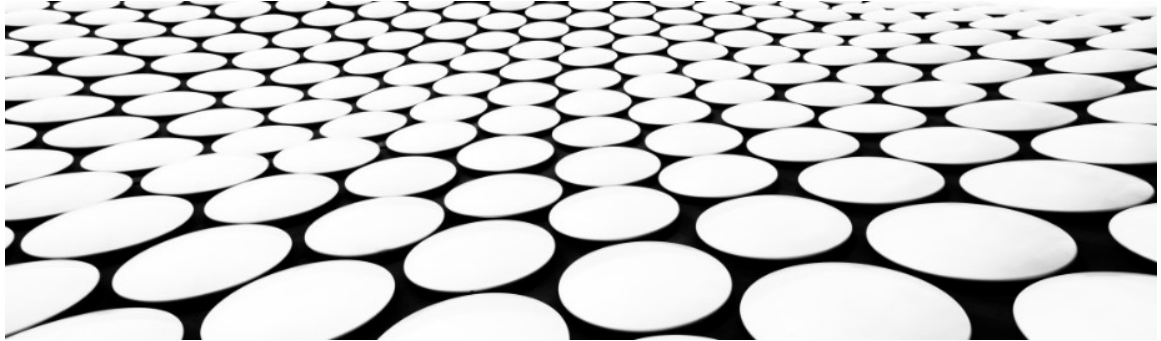
6. Delegations and Presentations

6.01 **The Camera Only Sees** (*A brief Analysis of Body-Worn Camera Systems and Surrounding Issues*) – Ryan Hillier

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THE CAMERA ONLY SEES

A BRIEF CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF BODY-WORN CAMERA SYSTEMS AND SURROUNDING ISSUES



RESEARCH FINDINGS

DOI: 10.1111/1745-9133.12412

CRIMINOLOGY
& Public Policy

RESEARCH ARTICLE

RESEARCH ON BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Research on body-worn cameras

What we know, what we need to know

Cynthia Lum | Megan Stoltz | Christopher S. Koper | J. Amber Scherer

George Mason University

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

“Because the rapid adoption of BWCs was driven by public protest, law enforcement concerns, a historical backdrop, government funding, and the development of portable video technology, it should not be any surprise that BWCs were quickly adopted in a low-research environment (Lum, Koper, Merola, Scherer, & Reioux, 2015). The first review of BWCs was conducted by White (2014), who discovered only five evaluation studies had been completed as of September 2013, even though almost a third of U.S. agencies had already adopted BWCs. In other words, agencies had already begun rapidly adopting BWCs without clear knowledge about whether the technology could deliver on the high expectations of them (i.e., to increase police accountability, reduce the use of force, reduce disparity, and improve community relationships). A low-information environment is not unusual in the world of police technology adoption. Most technologies are not only adopted without research knowledge but also continue to be adopted with very little growth in evaluation research about their effects. License plate readers, for example, are a case in point (see discussion in Lum & Koper, 2017: 111 –124).”

RESEARCH FINDINGS

North

RCMP's own research on body cameras is ambiguous



Positive impacts of body-worn cameras are largely unknown, according to research provided by Mounties

[Thomas Rohner](#) · CBC News · Posted: Nov 05, 2020 5:00 AM CT | Last Updated: November 5

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

“[...] Goodison and Wilson (2017), in their randomized controlled experiment, found no significant differences in citizens’ perceptions of police legitimacy, satisfaction with the interaction, or views of police professionalism between those who interacted with officers wearing or not wearing BWCs. These findings suggest that citizens’ satisfaction and perceptions are likely conditioned by officers’ actions and how they treat and speak to people, not just whether they are wearing BWCs, which in this case does not seem to have changed officers’ behaviors.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

“Improving accountability for police misconduct has been a primary motivation for advocates of BWCs. Prosecutors, however, rarely bring cases against the police (Skolnick & Fyfe, 1993), and it remains to be seen whether this will change much as a result of BWCs. In their study of the use of BWCs in the courts, Merola et al. (2016) found that nearly all (93.0%) responding prosecutors’ offices in jurisdictions that use BWCs use them primarily to prosecute citizens. Not surprisingly, 80.0% of responding prosecutors in Merola et al.’s survey support BWC use by the police, and 63.0% feel cameras will assist prosecutors more than defense attorneys. Only 8.3% of the respondents who were located in jurisdictions in which BWCs were available had ever used BWC footage in a case brought against an officer. Therefore, it is not surprising that we currently do not know the impact of BWCs on the investigation of officer actions.”

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New Brunswick

Arbitration hearing against former Kennebecasis officer unable to proceed



Jeff Porter's formal retirement means arbitrator has no jurisdiction to hear complaint against him



Isabelle Leger · CBC News · Posted: Dec 31, 2020 4:55 PM AT | Last Updated: 4 hours ago

RESEARCH FINDINGS

“Overall, the most likely reason for the positive (or improved) feelings for BWCs is that officers see BWCs as protecting themselves from the public, in particular, from frivolous complaints or one-sided stories about officer conduct”

“Put simply, officers and citizens both seem to believe that BWCs can protect them from each other. These conflicting expectations may reflect a larger dysfunction within police – citizen relationships that BWCs may illuminate but not remedy.”

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

“If BWCs are to produce substantial changes in police behavior and performance, these changes are most likely to come through their effects on processes in police organizations, particularly those pertaining to training, supervision, and investigation of police misconduct. Determining how BWCs affect the processes and outcomes of internal police investigations is particularly central to assessing whether BWCs achieve the purpose that was arguably the main driver of their adoption (i.e., improving transparency and accountability in the investigation of serious police misconduct, particularly surrounding the use of deadly force). These changes will come slowly, if at all, and will require long -term attention from the field. Nevertheless, they may be the most consequential for police–community relations and police legitimacy in the long run.”

RCMP officers to begin piloting body-worn cameras in Iqaluit, Nunavut later this year

October 21, 2020
Ottawa, Ontario

News release

Axon and Green Bay Packers Partner to Help Equip Green Bay Police with Body Cameras, Training and De-escalation Tools

Green Bay PD rolls out latest Replay Coaching feature, promotes culture of ongoing learning and development



NEWS PROVIDED BY
Axon
Dec 16, 2020, 07:00 ET



CRIME

KPD declares body cam test run a success, makes plans to fully outfit all field officers

Axon Enterprise is the vendor. A total of 350 cameras are to be used.

All Hawaii County police to have body cameras by end of week

December 21, 2020



Click to copy

HILO, Hawaii (AP) — By the end of the week, all Big Island police officers with patrol duties will be outfitted with body cameras, an official said.

About 300 officers will be wearing Axon Body 2 cameras, which record in high-definition video, when the rollout is complete. Uniformed patrol, traffic enforcement and community policing officers will wear the cameras, the Hawaii Tribune-Herald reported.

RELATED TOPICS
Hawaii

Nova Scotia

Full rollout of body cameras for Halifax police could take until 2023



Cost of the program could be \$3.7M over five years.

Pam Berman - CBC News - Posted: Dec 11, 2020 3:20 PM AT | Last Updated: December 11

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CANADA

Saint John Police Force expected to roll out body cameras with livestream capabilities



By [Travis Fortnum](#) · Global News

Posted November 2, 2020 6:11 pm · Updated November 2, 2020 6:37 pm

The Saint John Police Force will soon gear up with the Axon Body 3 body camera, which comes equipped with the ability to track officers' location in real-time and even livestream audio and video using cellular LTE technology.

The screenshot shows the top portion of a CBS News article. The navigation bar includes the CBS News logo, menu items for NEWS, BIDEN-HARRIS TRANSITION, SHOWS, and LIVE, and icons for a grid and search. The main headline reads "Taser maker Axon's shares jump 20% on George Floyd protests". Below the headline, it says "BY STEPHEN GANDEL" and "JUNE 1, 2020 / 2:03 PM / MONEYWATCH". Social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and a generic share icon are visible at the bottom right.

CBS NEWS NEWS ▾ BIDEN-HARRIS TRANSITION ▾ SHOWS ▾ LIVE ▾

Taser maker Axon's shares jump 20% on George Floyd protests

BY STEPHEN GANDEL
JUNE 1, 2020 / 2:03 PM / MONEYWATCH

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Digital Ally, Centrex and gun stocks power higher as social unrest fuels investor interest

Published: June 2, 2020 at 7:15 a.m. ET

By [Tomi Kilgore](#)

The 3 most active Nasdaq stocks were of companies that make body camera or video transmission products used by law enforcement



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Axon Stock Looks Positioned for Big Gains Over the Next 4 Years

Politics aside, AAXN stock is a long-term winner, but a Biden victory provides extra juice for the police tech provider

By Luke Lango, InvestorPlace Senior Investment Analyst Nov 6, 2020, 5:08 pm EST

A common misconception about Joe Biden's platform is that his policies support defunding the police.

They don't. Rather, Biden's stance here is very clear. It is to [increase police funding](#), so that they can have the necessary resources required to fund reform efforts.

In other words, a Biden administration would give law enforcement agencies more money, and require that they spend that money on new technologies which increase transparency and community safety. Things like body cameras, smart weapons, dash cameras, record management systems and modernized dispatch technologies.

You know who makes all that stuff? Axon — and as [I've said time and time again](#), the company basically has no competition when it comes to law enforcement tech.

Axon is the top dog. For all intents and purposes, the only dog.

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TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Taser-maker Axon is looking a lot more like Apple, Amazon, and so is the future of law enforcement

PUBLISHED THU, DEC 12 2019-10:00 AM EST | UPDATED THU, DEC 12 2019-5:39 PM EST

Maggie Overfelt
@MAGGIEOVERFELT

SHARE f t in e

For [Axon Enterprise](#), having its new chief software executive accompany police officers on midnight ride-alongs and sit inside a 911 dispatch center isn't just part of his job initiation. It's also an indicator of where the company, known for Tasers, body-worn cameras and, more recently, enterprise software for law enforcement, is headed.

In September Jeff Kunins joined Axon from [Amazon](#), where he was vice president of Alexa Entertainment. "He's my software soulmate," says Rick Smith, co-founder and CEO of the Scottsdale, Arizona-based company, which also has a Seattle office and has been drawing employees from big tech firms for the past few years.

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CISION

Former Seattle Police Chief to Join Axon's AI Ethics Board, Promoting Responsible Development of AI Technologies

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December 10, 2020 · 3 min read

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AAXN -0.82%

Chief Carmen Best joins board to ensure the advancement of ethical AI technology in law enforcement

SEATTLE, Dec. 10, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- [Axon](#) (Nasdaq: AAXN), the global leader in connected public safety technologies, today announced the appointment of Carmen Best, former Seattle police chief, to Axon's AI Ethics Board.

TRENDING

1. Despite hi-tech Europeans war
2. Iran Cuts Gas Fl Further Reduct
3. China Tells Ant Imposes Curbs
4. New variant of Portugal's Mad

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Nfld. & Labrador

Privacy commissioner launches investigation into Happy Valley-Goose Bay's body camera policy



Only a handful of police agencies in Canada use body cameras

CBC News · Posted: Dec 03, 2020 6:44 PM NT | Last Updated: December 3

New Brunswick

Saint John should share details of ransomware attack, cybersecurity expert says



Public shouldn't be 'kept in the dark' about extent and impact of damage, cybersecurity expert says

 Hadeel Ibrahim · CBC News · Posted: Dec 02, 2020 7:00 AM AT | Last Updated: December 2

MOTHERBOARD

Hackers Are Finding Footage on Police Body Cams They Bought on eBay

Hackers are buying used body cameras on eBay and finding troves of video evidence.



Politics

CSE warns companies to check IT systems following SolarWinds hack



Government agencies, organizations in Canada and abroad believed to be affected, cybersecurity force says

 Christian Paas-Lang · CBC News · Posted: Dec 24, 2020 5:05 PM ET | Last Updated: December 24

Politics

RCMP used cellphone tracking technology unlawfully 6 times, says privacy watchdog



Force failed to obtain a warrant before using the device

[Kristen Everson](#) · CBC News · Posted: Sep 14, 2017 5:00 AM ET | Last Updated: September 14, 2017

Politics

RCMP's use of Clearview AI facial recognition technology under investigation



Mounties acknowledge using facial recognition technology, but won't say where

[Catharine Tunney](#) · CBC News · Posted: Feb 28, 2020 11:34 AM ET | Last Updated: February 28, 2020

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RCMP union calls for clear guidelines on when body cameras can be turned off



NPF is also asking for legal penalties against those who make unfounded claims

Catharine Tunney · CBC News · Posted: Jan 12, 2021 3:41 PM ET | Last Updated: 3 hours ago

Position Statement



Body-worn cameras

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) will be an important tool going forward for improving multi-party transparency, community relations between police officers and citizens, and evidence collection. They will, in this digital age, also add important new responsibilities for maintenance, data storage, and disclosure. The NPF supports the responsible implementation of BWCs, so long as this new equipment does not unreasonably add to an already heavy workload or imperil the safety of RCMP Members.



Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay police try to exclude footage of officers dragging an Indigenous man from inquest evidence



Inquest to examine how 2 Indigenous men died while in police custody in the northern Ontario city

Martha Troian, Logan Turner · CBC News · Posted: Jan 14, 2021 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: 6 minutes ago

Judge drops charges against 28 Black Lives Matter protesters in Detroit

Posted By [Steve Neavling](#) on Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 11:47 am

Judge Larry Williams Jr. tossed the cases after the city of Detroit failed to provide discovery of information, including the identities of arresting officers and body cam footage, that could be used during a trial.

Chair Keyes stated that they would refer Mr. Hillier's presentation to the Chief of Police. He mentioned that the department had made a recommendation to the board, and the board has approved Body Worn Cameras, but they have not been rolled out in Saint John yet. He stated that there are a lot of reasons why, one of which is that the policy surrounding their use has not been finalized or formalized and Policing Standards in the Province of New Brunswick is also

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reviewing the policies and providing input. Chair Keyes wanted to let the public know that they would not be rolling them out for use until the policies have been approved.

He thanked Mr. Hillier for his presentation and for taking the time to speak to the board as it is important to know how the community feels about Body Worn Cameras, and Mr. Hillier responded that it is good to hear all voices.

On motion of Commissioner Kelly
Seconded by Commissioner Dean

RESOLVED, that “The Camera Only Sees (A brief Analysis of Body-Worn Camera Systems and Surrounding Issues) presentation by Ryan Hillier be received and filed and referred to the City of Saint John Chief of Police. (O2105-03)

Question being taken, the motion was carried.

7. Consideration of issues Separated from Consent Agenda

7.01 There were no issues separated from the Consent Agenda.

8. General Correspondence

8.01 Internal Monthly Report / April 2021

Chief Hayes reported that during the month of April there was one (1) complaint, three (3) complimentary correspondences and zero (0) grievances.

8.02 SJBPC Unaudited Financial Results as of April 30, 2021

Mr. Craig Lavigne stated that the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners Operating Budget as of April 30, 2021, was not able to be provided for the May 11 meeting as they were not closed off at this time.

8.03 SJPF Unaudited Financial Results as of April 30, 2021

Mr. Craig Lavigne stated that the Saint John Police Force’s Operating Budget as of April 30, 2021, was not able to be provided for the May 11 meeting as they were not closed off at this time.

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8.04 PSCC Unaudited Financial Results as of April 30, 2021

Mr. Craig Lavigne stated that the Public Safety Communication Centre's (PSCC) Operating Budget as of April 30, 2021, was not able to be provided for the May 11 meeting as they were not closed off at this time.

8.05 2021 Vehicle Replacement

The City of Saint John issued an RFP for the replacement of Police pursuit (patrol) vehicles. Downey Ford Sales Ltd. was the only vendor who met the requirements.

The Saint John Police Force will need to replace four (4) of its pursuit vehicles that have or will surpass their useful lives in 2021. Most pursuit vehicles have a useful life of approximately three (3) years due to their 24/7 use. It is critical that replacing these vehicles at the end of their life to minimize the excessive maintenance costs that can occur after end of life. According to the RFP response, the expected delivery time for these vehicles will be approximately 32 weeks from date of purchase order issue.

The 2021 Saint John Police Force's vehicle reserves have the funding available to purchase these vehicles as scheduled. Vice Chair Jones asked questions around reserves, how they build and get depleted, and Mr. Lavigne provided an explanation around this.

Acting Chief Tony Hayes mentioned a study in Gatineau, QC which found savings of \$8,800 per year with the price of gas at \$1.30 per litre, which pushed them towards the greener choice of vehicles. He was asked if there were concerns about hybrid vehicles not having as much "pep" and he cited another study from the Michigan State Police with the difference in performance between gas vehicles and the hybrid being minimal, and not enough of a difference to cause concern. In response to the size of the vehicles he stated that police officers today carry more gear and require more room in their vehicles as it is like an office on wheels.

On motion of Vice Chair Jones
Seconded by Commissioner Dean

RESOLVED, that the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners approve the purchase of four (4) 2021 Ford Explorer Hybrid AWD Police Interceptors at a tender price of \$67,882.00 (plus applicable HST) per unit and authorize the City of Saint John to issue a purchase order to Downey Ford Sales Ltd. (O2105-05)

Question being taken, the motion was carried.

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9. Adjournment

On motion of Commissioner Dean

Seconded by Secretary Costello

***RESOLVED, that the Saint John Board of Police Commissioners May 11, 2021,
Open Session meeting be adjourned at 5:40 p.m. (O2105-06)***

Question being taken, the motion was carried.

Chair Edward W. Keyes, Q.C.

Vice Chair Douglas Jones