

There is an issue at this moment that could use our voice of support. It is the funding of the body worn cameras (BWC).

The Sheriff's office began a BWC pilot in 2017. Finding the technology helpful to community safety, particularly policing transparency, the Sheriff's Office planned full deployment. At the Budget Meetings earlier this year, the Commissioners appropriated funding for the full deployment of BWCs but withheld their approval to expend the funds until the community was able to provide input.

There were summer listening sessions where community support for BWCs was mixed with some very strong sentiment against BWCs. And just recently Washington County put on 4 budgeting listening sessions to solicit input from the community about where they would like the county money to be placed. At least in the session I attended there was strong sentiment against Public, Safety and Justice, the Sheriff's Office and BWCs.

The Commissioners will be voting on whether to fund the full deployment of BWCs at their December 15th meeting.

If you are interested in supporting the Sheriff's Office and BWCs then I suggest you write a letter to your Commissioner asking him/her to approve the funding for the full deployment of BWCs.

Information about BWCs:

<https://www.co.washington.or.us/Sheriff/YourSheriff/accountability.cfm>

Find your Commissioner: <http://washco.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=62bfae2452c34a05abb94466aff2ce04>

Before December 8th: Write a letter to urge your Commissioner to vote YES to fund the full deployment of BWCs for our Sheriff's Office. My letter to Commissioner Treece and Chair Harrington is attached for your reference and use.

Send your letter to your Commissioner thru Contact your Commissioner: <https://www.co.washington.or.us/BOC/index.cfm>