

NO TO BODY CAMS

If the Winnipeg police get body cameras it's **because they will benefit the police, not you.** The Winnipeg Police Service and City Council want you to believe that they are buying body cams in response to outrage over police violence and killings in this city but the truth is they know body cams won't stop the violence.

While body cams may give the impression that police take accountability and calls for change seriously, the reality is that body cameras are just another tool that police can use against people. It's a way of funneling more money – \$6.5 to 8.5 million a year – into policing at the expense of life-affirming services.

Here are some questions and answers about body cameras.

Would body cams prevent people from being killed by the cops?

Many people have been killed by cops wearing body cams.

Does research show that body cams reduce police violence because cops are less likely to hurt or kill people when they are being filmed?

Recent studies reveal that body cameras are not nearly as effective at reducing violence as older and highly questionable studies had previously suggested.

Does body cam footage mean cops will be held accountable when they are violent?

Footage isn't an objective record—it's shaped by the viewer's perspective. Police hold significant power in court, where their authority shifts how their actions are interpreted.

Won't footage allow people to have the whole story when something happens?

Canadian privacy laws make it hard to make that footage publicly available, and since cops own that data, they'll have control over its release. They withhold when it protects them and release when it makes them look good.

Can't many concerns be mitigated with internal policies that require cops to release the footage?

It is already nearly impossible for people, including family members, to get information from cops when someone is hurt or killed. Even known information, like the names of the cops involved in someone's death, isn't released to the families. This will be no different.

Should we not at least try them anyways?

Most footage will never be used against police. It will be used to surveil people, acting like a portable CCTV (which also doesn't reduce harm!). It is ultimately a tool for evidence collection – further exacerbating criminalization and giving more power to the cops.

The only way to reduce police violence is to reduce police power. **If body cams reduced police power, WPS would be the first to oppose them.** Police violence is inherent to policing – the solution is abolition.

No more money for cops, no more money for surveillance technology.



Winnipeg Police Cause Harm
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