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17-155
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Body Worn Camera - Court Protocol

The San Francisco Police Department has established the following protocol for court room appearances by members.

The courtroom is accessible by the public, therefore, members appearing in court shall ensure that their Body Worn Camera is operational and the power switch is in the "on" position for continuous buffering.

The BWC shall remain in the buffering mode and the event button not activated to record unless the member has to take law enforcement action. If the member has to activate the event button on the BWC for recording, it shall be in accordance with Department General Order 10.11.

Uniformed members on or off-duty, attending court shall appear in their respective uniform of the day. All uniforms shall be worn according to the standards set forth in General Order 10.02 and officers be equipped with required equipment.

- Uniformed members are required to wear the BWC as trained.
BWC should be in "**buffering mode**" and not actively recording:
 - While waiting in the courtroom
 - While testifying in court
 - Inside Judge's chambers
 - Responding to Judge's / Commissioner's residence or alternate location regarding Search Warrant
 - During a telephonic conversation to obtain EPO, TRO or warrant approval

Department Bulletin 16-213 contains the policy should members take their Body Worn Camera home. If a member chooses to take their BWC home at the end of their shift for purposes of attending court, the Body Worn Camera data must be properly labeled and then uploaded from the device on the docking station prior to the end of the shift.

References:

DGO 10.02 Equipment
DGO 10.11 Body Worn Cameras
DGO 3.08 Court Appearances by Members
DB 15-257 Court Attire
DB 16-213 Proper Use and Storage of Body Worn Cameras


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Per DB 17-080, sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge receipt and review of Department issued documents in HRMS.