Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 03/17/2025
Drafted by: Law Department

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2025-05(c)am

An Ordinance Setting Forth the Policy and Procedures for the Release of Body Worn Camera Video Footage in Critical Incidents.

WHEREAS, the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau believes that the use of body worn cameras provides the community with increased transparency; and

WHEREAS, critical incidents require careful consideration and thoughtful community outreach; and

WHEREAS, often critical incidents are discussed and personal video is shared on social media immediately following such incidents; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, police departments have transitioned to releasing footage to the community as early as possible; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong public interest in releasing footage in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional rights of all parties remain protected, despite the timing of the release of footage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the City and Borough of Juneau Municipal Code.

Section 2. Amendment of Title. Title 55, Police, is amended to add the following chapters and sections:

Chapter 55.60 BODY WORN CAMERAS

55.60.010 Body worn camera policy.

The Juneau Police Department shall establish policies and procedures for the use of body worn cameras and the release of video footage.

55.60.020 Release of body worn camera footage in officer use of deadly force that results in serious physical injury or death.

When an officer use of force incident occurs where the use of force causes death or serious physical injury to an officer or another person, the Juneau Police Department will proceed as follows:

(1) Release body worn camera footage no later than 30 days after the incident. Family may be provided the opportunity to review the footage in-person or virtually up to 24 hours prior to planned public release.

(A) The release shall consist of relevant video imagery (including accompanying audio recording) that accurately depicts the actions and events leading up to and including the incident.

(B) The release of the footage will be accompanied by (1) additional information to provide context based on the evidence available at the time of release and (2) a brief summary of the redactions.

(C) Footage will not be released if JPD is in receipt of a valid court order prohibiting release or is otherwise prohibited by law.

(2) *Delayed release.*

(A) The prosecuting authority may request, in writing, up to a 10-day delay in the release of video to the public. In its request, the prosecuting authority should explain, with specificity, the interference or jeopardy that justifies

the delayed release. Neither a delay in completing the investigation nor pending prosecution review constitute a circumstance in which a delay in release is justified. The prosecuting authority's request for an extension will be carefully considered by the manager and chief of police, with the final decision granting a delay ultimately resting with the manager.

(i) Only one 10-day delay may be requested.

(ii) If granted, the manager shall inform the assembly, at the next scheduled meeting, of the delay.

(iii) If granted, upon release of the video, the prosecuting attorney's explanation for delay shall be released to the public.

(B) The manager or chief of police retain the discretion to identify circumstances under which the release of the video must be delayed to protect:

(i) The safety of involved individuals, including officers, witnesses, bystanders, or other third parties; or

(ii) Confidential sources or investigative techniques.

(C) If delayed by the manager or chief of police, in no case shall a delay exceed the end of the investigation, or ten days, whichever is shorter. The video imagery in question shall be released as soon as the reason for delay has been resolved.

(D) If delayed by the manager or chief of police, an explanation for delay shall be released to the public no later than 30 days from the date of the incident.

(3) *Notification.* Absent exigent circumstances, all reasonable attempts shall be made to notify the following individuals or entities at least 48-hours prior to the release of video imagery:

(A) Officer who is depicted in the video and/or significantly involved;

(B) The subject upon whom force was used upon;

(i) If the subject is deceased or unable to consent, the next of kin or personal representative, if known, will be notified;

(ii) If the subject is a juvenile, the subject's parents or legal guardian will be notified;

(C) The State of Alaska Office of Special Prosecutions and the Juneau Municipal Attorney's Office.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective 30 days after its adoption.

Adopted this 19th day of May, 2025.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk