



**THE POLICE COMMISSIONER
CITY OF NEW YORK**

April 27, 2016

Honorable Daniel Squadron
Senator, 26th District
New York State Senate
250 Broadway, Suite 2011
New York, NY 10007

Dear Senator Squadron:

I am writing in response to the concerns expressed in your letter regarding the New York City Police Department's development of policies for body-worn cameras (BWC), specifically exempting BWC footage from §50-a of the New York State Civil Rights law, which would subject BWC footage to normal Freedom on Information (FOIL) procedures.

The New York City Police Department believes that the videos captured by body-worn cameras are records that are subject to FOIL and its exemptions. As such, there will be times when the New York City Police Department cannot release video from body-worn cameras in order to comply with state law. For instance, the NYPD is required to seal all records that are related to an arrest when a case is terminated in favor of the accused, including footage captured by a body-worn camera. It would be a violation of state law to release it.

Please be assured that our working group is proceeding as expeditiously as possible, trying to balance public transparency and individual privacy. We are exploring all options for the use of body-worn cameras by our police officers. Thank you for your concern in this matter and for your continued support of the New York City Police Department.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William J. Bratton".

William J. Bratton
Police Commissioner