



Public Hearing – Body Worn Camera Fee Exemptions

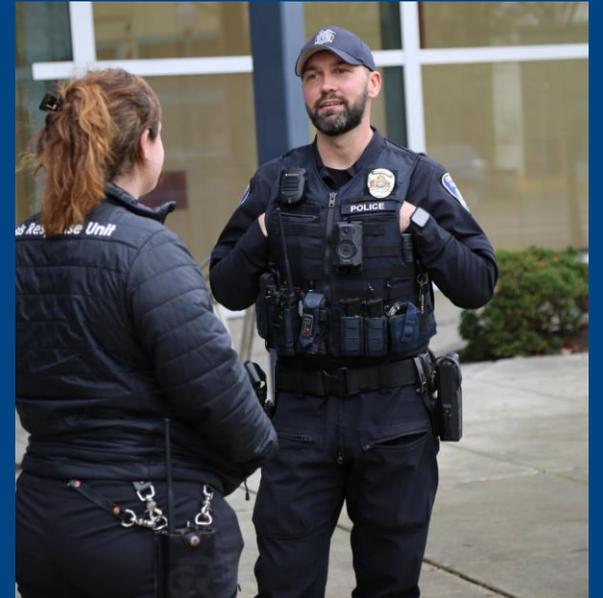
Agenda

- Background
- RCW Exemptions
- Review of Public Survey
- Conclusion



Background

- On May 14, 2024, a Public Hearing was held on Body Worn Camera redaction fees.
- Members of the Public and Councilmembers questioned the City's fee exemption for non-profit organizations.
- City Clerk's Services has reviewed the history of this exemption.



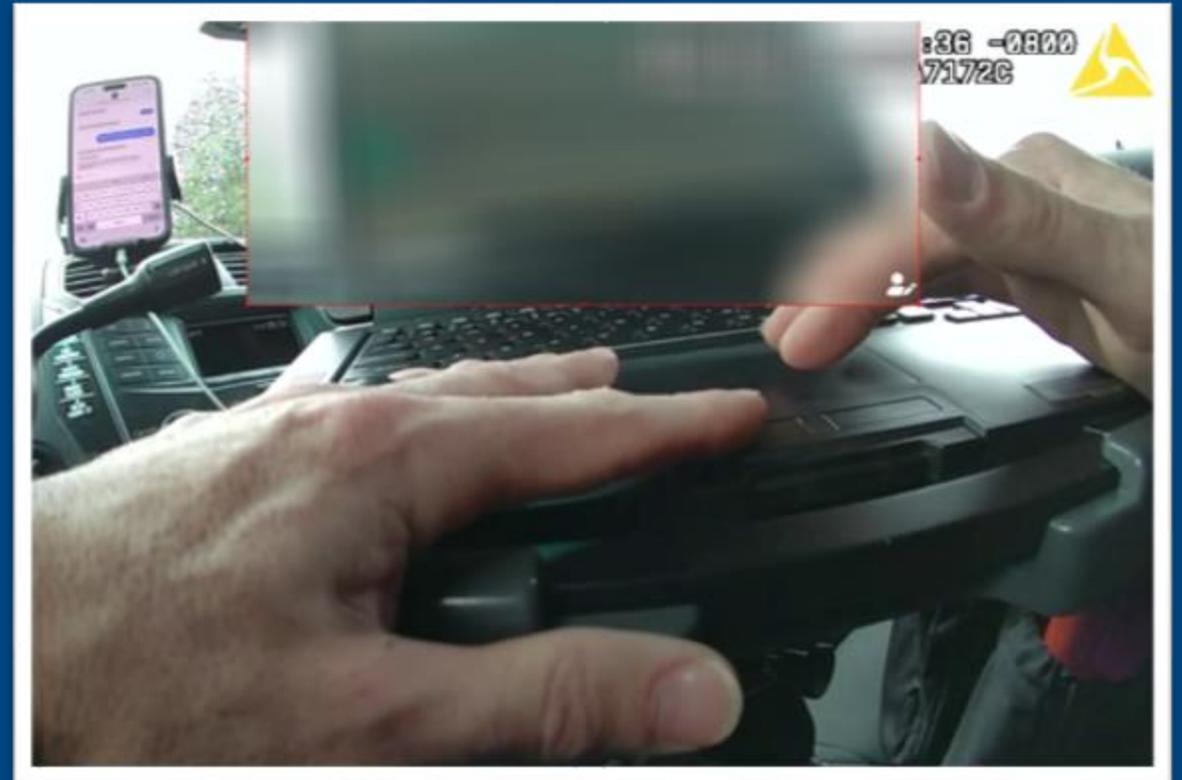
Who Is Exempt under the State Law?

- A person or their attorney involved in the incident
- A person or their attorney relevant to a criminal case involving that person
- Washington state commission of African-American, Asian Pacific American, or Hispanic affairs
- An attorney representing a person regarding a potential denial of civil rights



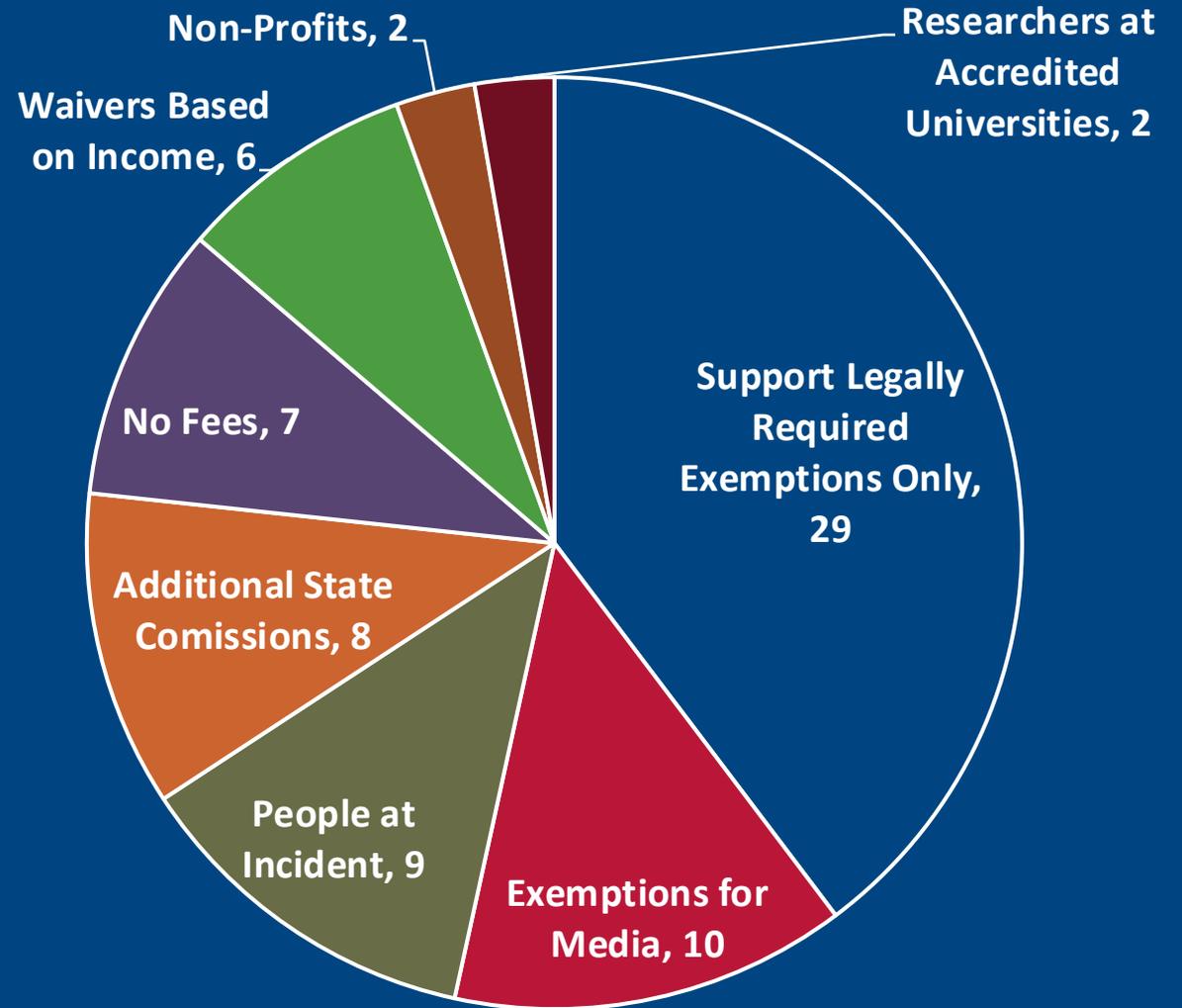
Previously Redacted Video

We do not charge anyone requesting footage that's already been redacted.



Fee Survey History

In May 2022, the City conducted a survey to gather public feedback regarding the legally required BWC fee exemptions and if other exemptions were needed. These are the results.



Survey Summary



- A plurality favored no additional exemptions to those already in state law.
- Our review of every respondent's suggested additional exemptions revealed no viable additions.
- Most requesters connected to an incident should fall into an existing category exempt from fees.

Non-Profits in Washington

- Non-profits are not difficult to register.
- Currently, a requester could register a non-profit in bad faith to get full access to any BWC video with no redaction fee.
- Non-profit organizations could still have victims request footage on their behalf at no cost.



Conclusion

- A plurality of the public surveyed found BWC fee exemptions required by state law to be sufficient.
- Over ninety percent of requesters are exempt from fees already.
- The non-profit exemption is open to abuse.
- No other exemptions suggested by the City's survey were found viable.



Council Options

- Remove the City created Non-Profit exemption.
- Keep the current City created Non-Profit exemption
- Take other action





Discussion



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