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THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC TRUST: AN ASSESSMENT

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THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC TRUST: AN ASSESSMENT

A Dissertation

Presented to

The Faculty of the Graduate School

Philippine College of Criminology

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology (Ph.D. Crim), Academic Track

By

Soledad Legaspi Elefanio

September 2025

Approval Sheet

This DISSERTATION entitled THE USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PUBLIC TRUST: AN ASSESSMENT, prepared and submitted by SOLEDAD LEGASPI ELEFANIO in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology, has been examined and is recommended for oral defense.

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Accepted and approved as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology.

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The undersigned agrees that this declaration may be used against her if irregularities in the conduct of this research paper are found.

Soledad L Elefanio
Researcher

Abstract

Body-worn cameras, or BWCs, are small, wearable recording devices that allow for the actions of law enforcement to be watched, reviewed, and monitored, and thus can be used to hold police accountable for their actions and to increase the level of trust between the public and law enforcement. However, there is a lack and gap concerning how implemented BWCs affect how effective they are in enhancing police accountability, reducing crime, and building community trust in the Philippine setting. The purpose of this study was to assess the effectiveness of body-worn cameras and how they affected various factors related to public trust. A total of 288 law enforcement officers and barangay officials were randomly selected from Region 3 as respondents. Data were collected using a researcher-made questionnaire and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The results indicate that BWCs are fully implemented in the region and that they are effective in promoting factors such as police accountability, reducing crime, and building trust within the community. It also indicates that the perspectives of BWCs between barangay officials and law enforcement are not too different. Further, when examining the relationship between the factors, it shows that if BWCs are properly implemented, they become very effective devices that promote and increase police accountability, reduce crime in areas, and help to build and cultivate community trust.

Keywords: Law enforcement, body-worn cameras, public trust, police accountability, crime reduction

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Soledad L Elefanio
Researcher

Dedication

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With deepest gratitude and love, I dedicate this dissertation to all of you — this is for you.

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Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

1.1.1 Introduction

Police across the country are increasingly relying on emerging technologies to make their jobs more efficient. In their daily work, they are using body cameras to reduce injury and bodily harm, according to Nepomuceno (2021). In 2025, the Directorate for Operations (DO) released a statement that the Philippine National Police (PNP) steadily increased the use of BWCs, with a total requirement of 45,552 BWCs to be distributed across all Police Regional Offices and National Support Units in adherence to NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2024-0547 and PNP Memorandum Circular 2024-058. These measures aimed to establish the minimum standards for body-worn cameras and enhance law enforcement accountability and public trust.

In 2021, the Philippine National Police (PNP) acquired 2,696 body-worn cameras (BWCs) and allocated them to 106 Component City Police Stations (CCPS), 20 City Police Offices (CPOs), 5 District Police Offices, and 44 Numbered Police Stations within the NCRPO, intending to improve transparency and accountability in law enforcement. Every CPO and each numbered police station within the NCRPO received 16 units of body-worn cameras, along with additional hardware components, accessories, and software systems.

The Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) acquired 236 body-worn cameras (BWCs) and allocated 16 BWCs to each of the 12 Component City Police Stations (CCPS), including Balanga City, Cabanatuan City, Gapan City, Mabalacat City, Malolos City, Meycauayan City, Science City of Munoz, Palayan City, San Fernando City, San Jose Del Monte City, San Jose City, and Tarlac City, as well as two City Police Offices (Angeles City and Olongapo City). Of the 16 units of BWC, four were equipped for live streaming, featuring a monthly SIM card subscription and a data capacity of 30GB, ensuring prompt oversight and reaction. This project aimed to bolster the legitimacy of police operations and augment public trust. Police Provincial Offices (PPOs) and Police Regional Offices (PROs) were also provided with accessories for observation and monitoring purposes. These BWCs served as powerful tools to record activities to bolster transparency and accountability in police operations. Further, these BWCs played a crucial role in furnishing concrete evidence for investigations and legal proceedings, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of law enforcement activities (Directorate for Operations, 2021).

The tragic incident involving Kian Loyd Delos Santos in 2017 underscored the need for BWCs. Kian's death, captured on CCTV footage and leading to the conviction of the involved officers, highlighted the importance of greater transparency and accountability within law enforcement (GMA Network, 2018).

Despite the challenges and gaps posed by recent high-profile cases involving alleged police misconduct, including instances of human rights violations, corrupt practices, and links to the illegal drug trade, the use of BWCs represented a proactive step toward restoring public trust in the PNP. By embracing these technologies, the PNP demonstrated its commitment to openness and accountability, fostering a culture of transparency that is essential for building stronger community-police relations. This new form of technology, recently adopted and popularized in the Philippines, helped positively enhance the relationship between law enforcement officers and citizens. By examining the overall impact of BWCs on these factors, researchers could assess the status of BWCs, their effectiveness in improving police-citizen relations, and areas that could be improved upon and elevated to further better the implementation and creation of guidelines for BWCs.

1.1.2 International Background

Research on body-worn cameras (BWCs) in American policing revealed generally positive public perceptions. BWCs gained prominence in law enforcement, offering potential benefits and challenges. A majority of community members supported BWC use, with perceived benefits including reduced police use-of-force incidents and citizen complaints. African-Americans particularly favored officers wearing BWCs, suggesting potential improvements in police-community relations and a decrease in racial tensions. BWCs were shown to reduce complaints against officers and use-of-force incidents while increasing

arrests and citations. They also improved report writing accuracy by allowing officers to review footage and correct errors in their initial accounts (Lum, 2019).

According to Braga et al. (2018), the adoption of BWCs raised social and legal implications that required further research. While BWCs could enhance transparency and legitimacy in policing, their implementation needed to consider the balance between improving civilian perceptions and potential concerns about increased enforcement activity. BWCs might also have impacted officers' decisions to use force and how the media used BWC data to embarrass police. Non-White and younger respondents were less likely to perceive BWC benefits. This result showed a gap in international studies, highlighting the complex relationship between BWCs, public trust, and police-community relations. On one hand, it offered a necessity to track police activities for monitoring and ensuring proper police conduct, but on the other hand, it could be used by the media to paint law enforcement in a negative light. The situation emphasized the need for further research to guide implementation and policy development.

1.1.3 National Background

The Philippine National Police (PNP) Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2018-009 (2018) established guidelines emphasizing transparency, accountability, and the preservation of human rights during police operations. These guidelines provided a framework for the appropriate use and management of body-worn cameras (BWCs), including protocols for storing and handling digital multimedia evidence (DME). Additionally, they highlighted the importance of real-time monitoring systems to oversee law enforcement activities and ensure compliance

with established policies while addressing privacy concerns for both police personnel and the community (PNP, 2018).

Subsequently, PNP MC No. 2024-058 (2024) explored the adoption of BWCs as a tool to enhance police accountability and operational transparency. This memorandum mandated the documentation of all law enforcement operations and warrant executions using BWCs. It emphasized the evidentiary role of BWC footage in legal proceedings, provided it adhered to existing policies and regulations. In alignment with this, the Supreme Court of the Philippines issued Resolution No. A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC on June 29, 2021, requiring law enforcement officers to use at least two devices—one BWC and one alternative recording device—to document incidents during the execution of arrest and search warrants. Moreover, the memorandum defined technical specifications for BWC devices used by the PNP, aiming to ensure transparency, record interactions objectively, and deter unprofessional conduct (PNP, 2024; Supreme Court of the Philippines, 2021).

Furthermore, DIDM Investigative Directive No. 2024-002 (2024) reinforced the significance of maintaining a secure chain of custody for recorded data from BWCs and alternative recording devices (ARDs) during police procedures. It established protocols for data management from the moment of recording through storage, ensuring a documented and traceable chain of custody. The directive also outlined data retention policies, access control measures, and secure storage solutions to preserve the integrity and authenticity of recorded evidence (DIDM, 2024).

The Philippine government has recognized the potential of BWCs to enhance police transparency and accountability. As reported by Nepomuceno (2021) in the Philippine News Agency (PNA), the PNP procured and distributed thousands of BWCs across various police stations, prioritizing their use in anti-narcotics operations and the execution of warrants. These devices were introduced to provide an impartial record of police interactions, mitigate incidents of misconduct, and improve evidence collection. However, Nepomuceno (2021) also noted challenges, including privacy concerns, technical limitations, and the necessity for comprehensive officer training.

Similarly, Caliwan (2021), writing for the Philippine News Agency, discussed the growing acceptance of BWCs in Philippine law enforcement. Public perception was generally supportive, with both police officers and citizens acknowledging the benefits of enhanced transparency and accountability. While initial concerns existed regarding potential misuse, officers increasingly recognized the protective advantages of BWCs. Nonetheless, challenges persisted due to the limited availability of research on BWC effectiveness and implementation in the Philippines. Privacy concerns and policy gaps also posed obstacles to widespread adoption. Despite these issues, research suggests that BWCs contribute to stronger police-community relationships, reduced misconduct, and improved law enforcement efforts. However, further studies are necessary to comprehensively assess the social and legal implications of their widespread use.

1.1.4 Local Background

The BWC System, in support of the S.M.A.R.T. (secure, mobile, artificial intelligence-driven, real-time technology) policing initiative of the PNP, allowed the PNP Command Center to monitor the actual police operations of all units nationwide (Bolledo, 2021). Additionally, the transparency and legitimacy of law enforcement operations were assured with the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) by police officers (Philippine News Agency, 2021).

Chief PNP Gen. Eleazar assured the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) that data security was “given primary importance” in the police guidelines on the use of body-worn cameras during operations. Mechanisms to ensure proper data management and privacy in the use of body cameras in police operations were in place. Eleazar further said the PNP would continue to coordinate with the National Privacy Commission on data management and security. The CHR urged the police to be cautious of data privacy in its use of the cameras and expressed “high hopes” that it would result in more transparent police operations. In 2019, they first introduced the body-worn camera system "to ensure transparency and the legitimacy of law-enforcement operations" (Inquirer.net., 2021).

According to Buan (2021), the rules required law enforcers to have at least one body-worn camera and one alternative recording device, or a minimum of two devices, during the execution of warrants. The officers using body-worn cameras had to wear the devices in a conspicuous location and in a manner that maximized their ability to capture a recording of the arrest.

Moreover, the study by Gaces et al. (2024) evaluated the impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on police operations at the Mabalacat City Police Station. The research utilized a mixed-method approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data from police officers. The results suggested that BWCs improved accountability, enhanced public trust, and reduced complaints and use-of-force incidents. Nevertheless, the study also underscored the necessity of further studies to develop a comprehensive understanding of the long-term effects and potential unintended consequences of BWCs in policing.

The "Revised Operational Guidelines and Policies on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras" stated that PNP officers could use BWCs in anti-illegal drug operations, as long as they were not acting as poseur buyers or doing test buys. They could also use them to serve search warrants and arrest warrants, rescue hostages, run high-risk checkpoints or chokepoints, protect people while court decisions or orders were carried out, and provide security for major events in the country (Aguilar, 2021).

Because of the recentness of the use of BWCs in the Philippines, there were limited studies and literature discussing body-worn cameras. This presented a clear gap that the study aimed to fill, contributing to the limited number of studies on BWCs and offering a scientific and educational perspective on their use, effectiveness, and impact by law enforcement.

Another gap identified in the adoption of BWCs was that it raised social and legal implications that required further research. While BWCs could enhance transparency and legitimacy in policing, their implementation needed to consider

the balance between improving civilian perceptions and potential concerns about increased enforcement activity. Other issues arose wherein some locations did not have access to or lacked BWCs to utilize in their operations. As BWCs became more prevalent, it was crucial to address the complexities surrounding their use in law enforcement and criminal justice systems. Despite these challenges, the impact of BWCs helped in officer accountability, crime reduction, and community trust.

According to RIDMD PRO3 (2024), the report from PRO3 analyzed the impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) and alternative recording devices (ARDs) on police accountability and public trust, utilizing data from various police operations. The data revealed that there were 1,908 buy-bust operations, 2,709 executions of warrants, and 376 other police operations, which resulted in a total of 5,751 arrested individuals. A total of 341 convictions, 79 plea bargaining agreements, and 41 acquittals were recorded. The implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) and alternative recording devices (ARDs) significantly enhanced police accountability by deterring misconduct, promoting transparency in public interactions, and providing clear, unbiased evidence that supported investigations and convictions. Provinces such as Pampanga and Tarlac, which were marked by high rates of arrests and convictions, illustrated the positive impact of these devices on public trust and police-community relations.

The study demonstrated that the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) and alternative recording devices (ARDs) in law enforcement significantly improved accountability, transparency, and public trust. These devices deterred police

misconduct, reduced the use of force, and enhanced transparency during interactions, which led to a decrease in complaints and improved case outcomes. The overall impact of BWCs in contemporary contexts was unassessable, and the effectiveness of these technologies was contingent upon proper deployment, management, and adherence to recommendations.

1.2 Related Literature

1.2.1 Foreign Literature

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) gained popularity in worldwide policing efforts in recent years. Mateescu et al. (2016) indicated that the advantages of BWCs include improved police accountability and community relations. Due to being recorded, officers were obligated to perform their duties more effectively and competently, reducing the likelihood of misconduct. Additionally, the use of facial recognition technology with BWCs exacerbated practices that historically victimized vulnerable populations. White and Malm (2020) provided an in-depth examination of the effects of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on law enforcement practices. This analysis delved into the potential advantages, including enhanced transparency, accountability, and legitimacy, alongside the challenges and limitations that accompanied their implementation. The authors assessed assertions that body-worn cameras could diminish the use of force, citizen complaints, and resistance while also addressing the privacy concerns and logistical challenges encountered by police departments. Seeger (2020) discussed how footage from BWCs was often posted on the internet, allowing the public to assess and draw conclusions from recordings captured by officers. The internet

increased public interest in BWCs, with video recordings posted online allowing the masses to evaluate police officers' power, authority, transparency, legitimacy, and accountability. The aforementioned literature highlighted the importance of thorough research and meticulous implementation to enhance the advantages of BWCs while reducing their risks, while also presenting how BWCs could further increase trust between law enforcement and the public and the many advantages they provide for law enforcement.

Snyder et al. (2019) discussed the perception difference between ranked officials and police officers regarding BWCs. Ranked officials and supervisors saw BWCs as necessary, while active officers viewed them negatively, citing limitations on effectiveness due to recording. This study highlighted rank-related challenges in BWC implementation, with active officers hesitant due to personal and privacy reasons, while supervisors saw positive benefits. This challenge might have caused conflict if BWCs were not properly implemented.

Despite BWCs being widely adopted by police agencies worldwide and their advantages being clearly shown, their effectiveness remained debatable. BWCs might have limited discretionary action and slowed decision-making, according to Putranto (2022), potentially affecting officer performance. The technology's impact on accountability was significant, expanding to various aspects of policing. Initial apprehension about BWCs often gave way to acceptance as officers recognized the protective benefits. BWCs offered an added safety net to citizens by allowing recordings to serve as evidence against unnecessary force by police officers (Wright & Houston, 2021). BWCs also deterred criminals, as the footage could

serve as evidence for arrests or remind would-be criminals that law enforcement was surveilling them. Cubitt et al. (2017) posited that BWCs might aid in criminal justice, potentially reducing court cases due to overwhelming evidence and guaranteeing convictions without incurring repeated trial costs.

Other challenges are presented by Stoughton (2017), who highlighted that while BWCs aimed to promote accountability and improve police-community relations, their implementation yielded mixed results. Young and Puckett (2020) emphasized that BWCs promoted behavioral changes in officers and citizens, although their impact on reducing public complaints remained debatable. This was because BWCs influenced various policing outcomes, particularly in reducing police use of force; it did not mean use of force decreased, but rather that officers were deterred from committing crimes while being recorded. Williams et al. (2021) highlighted challenges, including potential limitations on officer discretion and decision-making. Miller and Chillar (2021) mentioned that as police agencies considered implementing BWC programs, careful consideration of policies, procedures, and practical limitations was crucial to maximize their effectiveness.

Sousa et al. (2018) shared the inconsistencies and complexities in opinions on BWCs from both the public and law enforcement perspectives. Law enforcement officers saw BWCs as beneficial for increasing citizen compliance and decreasing complaints but worried that recorded footage could be taken out of context and harm their reputation. The public saw BWCs as a way to hold unethical officers accountable and decrease the use of force but raised concerns about personal privacy. Maskály et al. (2017) suggested that police and the public

generally supported BWC adoption because it enhanced police legitimacy and accountability. BWCs protected officers from wrongful accusations of misconduct and protected citizens from fraudulent acts by corrupt officers. However, Lum et al. (2019) and Bud (2016) had opposing views on the effects of BWCs on officer and citizen behavior and citizens' views of police. Bud (2016) indicated that some citizens felt discomfort when recorded while not committing illegal activities, while others worried about footage misuse. Lum (2019) highlighted that citizen felt safer with officers wearing BWCs due to increased transparency. This complexity might have deterred law enforcement from implementing BWCs and caused future problems if concerns were not addressed.

Miranda (2021) focused on technical and contextual challenges created by BWCs. An officer’s movements could make footage unusable, and certain operational settings might have affected recording and data saving, corrupting video evidence. BWCs were affected by camera movement and operational settings, leading to biased or inaccurate evidence. Ethical issues arose about filming civilians not committing crimes and the misuse of footage. Data management and storage problems also emerged, with a risk of information corruption or misuse if police forces were not equipped to manage recorded data. Despite the advantages, lingering issues need addressing. Meanwhile, Christodoulou et al. (2019) presented concerns about BWCs affecting officers' existing skills and acuity. BWCs could have impacted officer memory, credibility, and well-being, requiring further observation. Adam and Mastracci (2017) supported the notion that despite BWC benefits in transparency and criminal

surveillance, abuse could occur without proper oversight and regulation. This created problems that might hinder BWC implementation and use and cause public issues. The literature highlighted that officer might have relied too heavily on BWCs, leading to problems if the cameras malfunctioned or failed to capture crucial details. Developing guidelines and legislation that balanced BWC benefits with continued training was crucial as adoption grew.

The study by Magtaan et al. (2024) focused on many important points, including how important it was for BWCs to protect the privacy of people involved and the integrity of evidence, how important it was to have clear operational guidelines and policies, the technical and privacy issues that came up, how important it was for officers to get thorough training, and how important it was for government policies to make BWCs work and deal with these issues.

1.2.2 Local Literature

The Philippines has recently begun increasing and developing its technological capabilities to combat the rising threats of illegal drugs, crimes, and corruption. According to the article by Llanes (2019) for Sunstar, the Philippines sought to utilize world-class and digital technology for its law enforcement operations, hoping to improve and benefit from its success in preventing and interfering with these criminal acts. One such technological improvement was the use of body-worn cameras for police officers.

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) gained widespread adoption in police departments in the Philippines, offering potential benefits in accountability, transparency, and police-community relations. Despite widespread adoption, the

effectiveness of BWCs in achieving their intended goals remained uncertain. Chi (2023) wrote in an article for PhilStar Global about how there was a lack of body-worn cameras being used by PNP officers. This lack of body-worn cameras increased the difficulty of training officers on their use and highlighted how a lack of a proper budget to support the procurement of BWCs could lead to a lack of implementation across various PNP stations. A similar article written by Ombay (2023) for GMA News Online echoed the same sentiment, further noting how delays in procuring BWCs due to budgeting restrictions hindered their use and application for PNP officers. Both articles indicated the challenge of implementing BWCs due to a lack of resources and funding.

Police agencies had to carefully consider policies regarding BWC implementation due to high costs and debatable outcomes. This serious challenge was further heightened by the death of a 17-year-old Navotas native, where police officers had their body-worn cameras turned off during the operation. According to Chi (2023), in an article written for PhilStar Global, this incident prompted lawmakers and legislative bodies to enforce laws surrounding BWCs, mandating that PNP officers must keep their cameras on and recording during police operations. This presented the necessary involvement of the government and how their policies could help further implement BWCs while also providing safety nets for both citizens and police officers on the proper use of BWCs and dissuading abuse of the technology.

The study conducted by Andrade et al. (2024) assessed the implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) among police officers in Cebu City and emphasized

their substantial advantages in terms of accountability and police-community relations. It indicated that the transparency and trust between the police and the community were significantly enhanced by BWCs. Additionally, the cameras improved accountability by offering distinct evidence in instances of misconduct or disputes, thereby ensuring more objective investigations. The presence of BWCs also resulted in a significant decrease in the use of force, as the cameras served as a deterrent to excessive force and assisted in de-escalating situations. Furthermore, the footage captured by BWCs was a valuable source of evidence for supporting law enforcement efforts and resolving conflicts. The study suggested creating a more comprehensive action plan to further incorporate BWCs into police operations. This plan should include initiatives to safeguard the privacy of recorded individuals, explicit guidelines for camera usage, and officer training.

Tad-awan et al. (2023) assessed the benefits and drawbacks of utilizing body-worn cameras (BWCs) in police operations within Baguio City. The emphasis was on transparency and civilian perceptions, indicating that BWCs contributed to eliminating doubt and enhancing transparency in police operations. Body-worn camera footage was regarded as reliable evidence in legal proceedings, contingent upon adherence to established rules and policies. Nonetheless, the study identified challenges, including the rapid discharge of cameras, difficulties in concealment, and the absence of body-worn cameras in all police stations. The study identified an enhancement in civilian perceptions, evidenced by decreases in complaints, use of force, and human rights violations.

The study conducted by Corpuz et al. (2023) examined the perceptions of body-worn cameras (BWCs) among community members and police officers in Angeles City, Pampanga, emphasizing the delicate balance between privacy concerns and transparency. The results indicated that, although BWCs were valued for their ability to improve transparency and accountability, there were substantial apprehensions regarding privacy and the potential for recorded footage to be misused. Police officers and community members both recognized the advantages of BWCs in reducing complaints and nurturing trust. However, they also underscored the necessity of explicit policies and safeguards to protect individual privacy.

Santos and Cruz (2022) looked into the influence of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on views of police accountability among officers and people in Metro Manila. The research demonstrated that body-worn cameras had resulted in enhanced community connections and confidence. The installation of cameras improved openness and accountability, promoting security and collaboration between the police and the community.

In an article written by Cervantes (2024) for the Philippines News Agency, they discussed the implementation of body-worn cameras for the Philippine National Police (PNP), highlighting some of the benefits of BWCs in law enforcement, specifically in using captured footage as evidence in court to prosecute criminals, as well as how BWCs could provide safety to PNP officers from harassment and unfounded complaints. These benefits were stated to be the “Filipinos’ eyes and ears” during police operations, as per the article by Aguilar

(2021) for Inquirer. This further solidified the necessity as well as the advantages provided by BWCs in assisting law enforcement in performing their duties while maintaining the public's trust.

Bacani et al. (2019) conducted a study to evaluate the effectiveness of mandatory body-worn cameras in law enforcement. The study emphasized that body cameras greatly enhanced transparency and accountability within police operations. Nonetheless, it also recognized challenges, including privacy concerns and technical issues that required attention. The research employed questionnaires and interviews to collect data from participants, indicating that although the cameras contributed to corroborating evidence and minimizing confrontational scenarios, they occasionally infringed upon individuals' privacy. The study indicated that, notwithstanding the advantages, meticulous attention to privacy and technical factors was essential for the effective deployment of body-worn cameras.

Renzo et al. (2023) conducted a study to evaluate civilian perceptions regarding the implementation of body cameras by law enforcement at Batasan Station 6, Quezon City. The study revealed that the public primarily viewed body-worn cameras positively, as they enhanced transparency and accountability in law enforcement operations. Nonetheless, the study also recognized challenges, including privacy concerns and technical issues. The findings indicated that, although body cameras had the potential to enhance public trust, it was essential to address these challenges for their successful implementation.

Jeremy et al. (2023) conducted a study to assess the perceptions of the community and police officers regarding the mandatory use of body-worn cameras during police patrols in Barangay Fairview, Quezon City. The findings indicated that people generally viewed body-worn cameras favorably, as they enhanced transparency and accountability in police operations. Nevertheless, the investigation also underscored obstacles, including technical difficulties and privacy concerns. In general, the research indicated that body-worn cameras had the potential to enhance public trust; however, it was imperative to address these obstacles to ensure their successful implementation.

Roderick Alcordo Jr. (2024) assessed the impact of body-worn cameras on police operations at QCPD Station 4 in Novaliches. The research concluded that body-worn cameras enhanced transparency and accountability, as both the community and police officers reported a reduction in ambiguity during operations. Despite not being available in all police stations, the body-worn cameras were admissible in court. The study underscored the necessity of addressing technical challenges and implementing body-worn cameras in a comprehensive way to optimize their benefits in law enforcement.

The study of Dela Pena et al. (2022) focused on how body-worn cameras (BWCs) were being used in different cities in Region 3. Despite the positive reception of BWCs for enhancing transparency and accountability in police operations, the research highlighted the ongoing challenges. These encompassed privacy concerns, technical challenges, and the necessity for thorough training for

law enforcement personnel. The study highlighted the necessity of tackling these challenges to guarantee the sustainable and effective execution of BWC policies.

The study conducted by Dingrat et al. (2024) assessed the Malabon City Police's handling of issues and concerns related to the implementation of body-worn cameras in their operations. The research aimed to assist the PNP in developing improved policies, programs, and activities that would effectively address the existing gaps and challenges. The case study illustrated that the Malabon City Police Station utilized a total of 15 BWCs, each exhibiting different levels of serviceability. A survey conducted across seven regions indicated that the highest compliance rate for adherence to protocol was 15%, whereas the lowest compliance rate for privacy considerations stood at 5%. Twenty participants provided feedback indicating the strict enforcement of BWC policies and protocols, along with their smooth integration into police operations. A significant majority of respondents (85%) recognized enhanced transparency as the primary advantage of training and development, which elicited mixed feedback. The challenges identified included technical issues, budget constraints, and deficiencies in training. The study advocated for a substantial budget allocation for the procurement of additional high-quality BWCs, comprehensive training for all personnel, and investment in technological solutions to ensure the effective integration of BWCs into police operations. The main recommendations focused on executing the proposed action plan in Malabon City and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

Balangan et al. (2024) aimed to assess the competence of PNP personnel in the implementation of BWC and ARD guidelines, as well as the impact of these devices on enhancing police operations. The study also examined the differences in perceptions between PNP personnel and private citizens, along with the significant concerns faced by BCPO. A quantitative design with a descriptive survey approach was used for the study. The results showed that BCPO staff were very good at following the guidelines for BWCs and ARDs. Police officers and private citizens indicated a moderate effect of BWCs and ARDs on enhancing police operations. Key issues encompassed implementation challenges, officer training, expectations regarding BWC footage, and the specifications and applications of body-worn cameras. The findings demonstrated the proficiency of BCPO personnel in utilizing BWCs and ARDs, linked to their dedication to accountability and transparency, and thereby enhanced public trust in law enforcement. Adhering to guidelines enabled police officers to document their actions accurately, providing valuable evidence for investigations and legal proceedings. The moderate impact resulted, in part, from cultural resistance to recording devices, which affected privacy rights. The "self-awareness effect" of BWCs prompted both officers and suspects to regulate their behavior, leading to a decrease in aggressive actions and the use of unnecessary force. The identified themes were feasible and could be effectively addressed through suitable recommendations.

1.2.3 Synthesis of the Related Literature

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) became increasingly prevalent in policing, showing generally positive impacts based on the gathered literature. It had been shown that both officers and citizens were supportive of BWC adoption. This was due to BWCs enhancing police-community relationships, decreasing misconduct, and improving accountability. The provided literature suggested that BWCs could improve police-community relationships and reduce misconduct through enhanced accountability and legitimacy. BWCs have also shown the potential to significantly improve documentation accuracy in emergency medical services. In a police organization, BWC implementation primarily affected accountability, expanding its scope to cover various aspects of policing. In field settings, BWCs reduced response to resistance events and prevented injuries to on-duty officers and community residents. However, their effects on officer and citizen behavior were not consistently significant. Some citizens argued on the ethical notion of BWCs recording them despite not committing any crimes, and some officers believed that it heavily limited the officers' ability to act and use discretion. Officers feared BWCs would be used punitively, but their perceptions became more positive over time as they realized the technology's protective benefits. These findings highlighted the importance of examining both the positives and negatives of the implementation processes of BWC programs in law enforcement and related fields. While BWCs were not a cure for improving police performance and accountability, they could complement existing surveillance systems and contribute to organizational changes that might enhance police legitimacy in the long term.

1.3 Related Studies

1.3.1 Foreign Studies

The rise of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in policing has transformed law enforcement practices significantly since their introduction in the early 2010s, according to Chapman's (2019) study. Chapman discusses that this can be attributed to the public's desire to enhance transparency and accountability within law enforcement and that this technological advancement also aims to address the concerns of the public regarding police conduct. Beckman and Löfstrand (2016) discuss and elaborate on this further, stating how the rise of BWCs is meant to address various policing concerns. From an excessive use of force brought about by the police, a lack of oversight, and a growing need and demand for accountability of law enforcement, Palmer believes that the rise of BWCs is meant to solve and fix these challenges.

Groff et al. (2019) and Braga et al. (2018) discussed the benefits of BWCs concerning law enforcement's change in behavior toward citizens. Both studies stated that there was a reduction in "proactive policing," with officers limiting pedestrian stops, vehicle stops, unwarranted arrests, and use of physical force. The studies highlighted how the presence of BWCs deterred officers from acting irrationally and instinctively. BWCs affected officer behavior toward citizens, leading to a decrease in the use of force and conflict. This, in turn, helped the relationship between citizens and law enforcement. Pyo (2021) shared the same results, with his study indicating how the presence of BWCs reduced unwarranted arrests as well as a decline in the use of physical force to restrain targets. However,

Groff et al., Braga, and Pyo also discovered in their studies that the presence of BWCs did not affect citizen complaints toward police officers, indicating that other factors were at play regarding this. Despite this, the use of BWCs showed a reduction in the potential for conflict between citizens and officers.

Sutton's (2021) and White et al. 's (2017) studies continued this trend of the benefits of BWCs, revealing how officers were less likely to use violence and police force when wearing BWCs. With deaths continuing to occur due to excessive use of police force, BWCs were becoming more essential as a way to both hold accountable police officers who unjustly used too much force when apprehending suspects and keep them aware and in check to only use the necessary amount of force and to use verbal communication to de-escalate stressful situations. Witt's (2018) study discusses how BWCs reduced complaints against officers in their area by approximately 90% and identified an approximate 50% reduction in the use of force by officers. These show promising results of the efficacy and effectiveness of BWCs to foster a better relationship between law enforcement and the rest of society. These studies also highlighted how the use of BWCs as evidence to discipline and penalize unethical and corrupt law enforcement officers could help in improving community relations. Veerman's (2019) study offered findings that discussed how police officers found BWCs to be beneficial for them. The study discussed how, from the perspective of experienced officers with several years of working in the field, BWCs made officers safer when on active duty, decreased or exonerated complaints due to recorded footage, and produced better evidence and findings during investigations. However, the majority of officers also

believed the cameras could make them slower to respond to aggression out of fear that the recordings captured by the BWCs might lead to misunderstandings between both the public and high-ranking supervisors. This study showed the complexity of the issue of BWCs but also how the perception of police officers perceived BWCs as having a positive impact on both their well-being and their effectiveness at work.

Demir et al. (2020) and Hedberg et al. (2017), with their studies, presented how the presence of BWCs encouraged citizens to be much more compliant when talking and interacting with police officers. This ease of compliance was because citizens might be wary of their actions that were being recorded and would seek to act in a respectable and compliant way. This eventually led to a decrease in conflict, and sometimes violence, between officers and civilians, improving their relations with the general community. Saulnier and Sytsma's (2023) study supports this, indicating that this exposure might improve evaluations of officer respect, procedural justice, and willingness to cooperate, especially among individuals with low existing trust in police. These findings suggested that the strategic use of BWC footage could enhance police-community relations. It was also concluded that with the easier level of compliance between officers and civilians, there could be an improvement in the speed and frequency at which law enforcement performed their duties.

About BWCs helping law enforcement, a study by Adams et al. (2020) on the use of BWCs concerning the criminal justice system presented how recorded footage of BWCs helped officers remember key details and events, thus helping

them recall important information that could be used when prosecuting criminals. It also provided a benefit to much older law enforcement officers who had trouble remembering certain details during police investigations, raids, and arrests. It was shown here how BWCs were an integral part not just in law enforcement practices but also in courtroom cases. Laming's (2018) study discusses that another positive aspect of BWCs is the decrease in overall cost with the effective use of BWCs. Officers who can successfully and accurately identify criminals captured on body-worn cameras can lead to faster and more accurate arrests, and identifying criminals faster can lead to less property damage that may occur during pursuits. Both of these highlights how BWCs can be effective in decreasing the costs for law enforcement.

Broomberg's (2022) study indicated that a police chief's trust in their officers could influence their willingness to release BWC footage, potentially improving community relations. Public opinion on BWCs was mixed, with varying views on their capacity to increase transparency, trust, and police-citizen relationships. However, exposure to positive BWC videos, particularly those depicting acts of heroism, could moderate the negative effects of low trust in police.

Research on body-worn cameras (BWCs) and trust in police revealed complex relationships. Sivasubramaniam et al. 's (2021) study revealed that while BWCs alone might not significantly impact perceptions of police-citizen interactions, an officer's respectfulness and preexisting trust in police remained crucial factors. BWCs on officers were able to create a level of trust between the officers and the citizens and could create a perception of officers being trustworthy.

However, Boivin et al. (2021) state that despite the presence and usage of BWCs by law enforcement officers, some may choose not to activate their cameras out of fear that the encounter “will not make them look good,” which defeats and undermines the entire purpose of using them to build trust between the public. Rowe’s (2018) study stated that BWCs could constrain officer discretion and create pressure for increased use in public encounters. With the growing prevalence of BWCs, officers feared that justified use of force and decision-making on their behalf might be scrutinized as harmful and unlawful. Questions about the evidential value of BWCs also emerged, wherein prosecutors might solely rely on footage captured from BWCs instead of other sources, such as witness testimonies. There was also a growing concern with using footage without showing the full context and background of a situation, thus creating problems that might arise due to the misuse of BWC recordings. Rowe’s study raised the fact that BWCs needed more regulation and guidelines for them to be properly and ethically effective. Peterson and Lawrence’s (2019) study discussed how body-worn cameras had been widely adopted by police agencies to enhance accountability and transparency, but while it suggested BWCs reduced use of force and citizen complaints, recent studies showed mixed results. The technology's impact on police-community relations and its value as evidence in criminal cases and internal investigations required further research. Balancing privacy concerns with the potential benefits of BWCs remained a challenge for policymakers and stakeholders. Palmer (2016) discusses how the challenge of the use of BWCs falls on the policymakers and stakeholders, pushing them towards creating rules, laws, and policies that will take into account

the worries about privacy of the constant surveillance brought to the public due to BWCs. All of these indicate how the relationship between the public, the police officers, and the use of body-worn cameras is complex and requires more inquiry and research.

One other notable challenge and problem that may be raised in the use of BWCs is the privacy concern of respondents. Pickering's (2020) study presented that while law enforcement officers could protect themselves from false complaints and improve police behavior, they also raised concerns about privacy rights for citizens and for fellow officers. The study indicated that citizens felt discomfort towards being filmed and recorded on BWCs despite not committing any crimes. Meanwhile, officers reported that BWCs might depreciate their credibility and impact prosecutorial decision-making. They believed that a reliance on BWCs by the justice system might impact their capacity to be witnesses and credible sources of evidence. The technology's effect on officer memory, well-being, and the potential bias in viewing recordings requires further research and should not be ignored when discussing BWCs. In a study by Sanders (2022), they discuss and elaborate on the potential of using recorded and captured videos and photographs of BWCs that can be used and taken out of context and placed in a negative light, violating the privacy and wishes of those recorded and photographed. This issue further raises concerns about potential problems that may exist in the use of BWCs. Keon et al.'s (2019) study on BWCs presented the impact of internal organizational processes, including training, supervision, and reporting. However, their implementation might not lead to increased officer accountability as initially

expected. BWCs raised privacy concerns, as they could potentially record mundane interactions and be used with facial recognition technology. Lee et al.'s (2018) study also highlighted how police detainees generally supported BWC use but identified limitations in achieving full accountability. This highlights that without existing policies and laws on the use of BWCs, especially about privacy concerns of citizens and the public, this could open up opposition and resistance to their implementation and use.

1.3.2 Local Studies

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) in policing in the Philippines recently gained attention for their potential to improve police-community relations and accountability. In Andrade et al.'s (2024) study, they indicated that both police and citizens generally supported BWC adoption, with cameras enhancing transparency and public trust. In the Philippines, where corruption was prevalent, BWCs provided an avenue for law enforcement to enhance their relationship with the community. Mercado (2024) further supports these findings in their study, wherein police officers who comply with established policies in the use of BWCs encountered noticeably fewer problems about procedural fairness, police performance, data protocols, privacy concerns, and camera benefits. This further highlights the effectiveness of BWCs in addressing policing problems and that the presence of BWCs allowed citizens and society to feel safer and more trusting towards law enforcement due to the reminder that officers were being recorded and monitored.

Implementation of BWCs significantly impacted accountability in policing, covering various aspects such as training and policy compliance. Koen's (2016) study discussed that while initial concerns about BWCs being used punitively against officers existed, these fears diminished as officers recognized the protective benefits of the technology. In the study, there was a focus on officers feeling safer with BWCs because of how they recorded any instances of aggression towards them and gave them evidence to present to prosecutors and courts should they be wrongfully accused of misconduct. Through BWCs, it was shown that the rights and safety of the officer were protected along with the citizens. Further advantages of BWCs were presented by Mabanglo (2023) in their study, which stated that BWCs were effective and integral tools for anti-drug operations in the Philippines. The study states that BWCs helped in providing transparency for the public, corroborating evidence between different individuals and areas, and alternative eyewitness accounts, allowing for easier and more accurate crime analysis and investigation. This will often guarantee that anti-drug operations are free and safe from any alterations and outside influence and can be used as evidence in court proceedings. Corpuz et al.'s (2023) study reinforced the advantages of BWCs. BWCs allowed for the increase of transparency, accountability, and public trust in officers through recorded footage. The recorded footage from BWCs allowed for the scrutiny and monitoring of officers, allowing both citizens and law enforcement leaders to identify instances of proper conduct and misconduct, as well as instances of unlawful acts conducted by both officers and citizens. BWCs had also been shown to improve evidence gathering during

police operations and arrests and assisted in officer training by reviewing footage. The implementation of BWCs has been widely supported by both law enforcement and the public, increasing cooperation from citizens, reducing aggression during arrests, and resulting in fewer complaints against officers.

The research study conducted by De Vera and Nadarisay (2024) assessed the effects of implementing body-worn cameras (BWCs) and GPS tracking on community policing. Surveys and interviews were conducted with police officers and community members to gather insights on the benefits, costs, and strategies for adopting these technologies. The research emphasized the potential of these technologies to improve transparency, accountability, and trust between law enforcement and the community, as well as to enhance operational efficiency and officer safety. Corpuz and Gimeno's (2024) study analyzed the effect of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on police accountability and public trust. It revealed how BWCs enhanced transparency and community engagement by capturing police-citizen encounters. The study discovered that, while BWCs increased justice and safety, they also raised privacy issues and implementation problems. These findings provided policymakers with significant insights for developing better recommendations to increase the efficiency and integrity of BWC initiatives. The theoretical frameworks used, such as systems theory and the politics of evidence, enabled a more in-depth examination of the larger implications of BWCs for law enforcement procedures.

However, challenges and concerns remain in the use of BWCs, including privacy concerns and the need for effective implementation strategies. Bud’s

(2016) study presented that BWCs might cause issues for both citizens and law enforcement. On the citizens' side, some members of the community felt anxious and worried when they were being recorded despite doing nothing wrong, while others felt that the recorded footage of them could be misused. On the officer's side, the implementation of BWCs could lead to falsely relying on recorded footage of arrests and operations and ignoring police and eyewitness testimonies. It could also lead to officers foregoing their training of being observant and watchful and instead relying on evidence captured by the BWC instead of their own. Furthermore, Gaces et al.'s (2023) study stated that police body-worn cameras (BWCs) had been widely promoted as a technological mechanism to improve policing and the perceived legitimacy of police and legal institutions, yet evidence of their effectiveness was limited.

Allen's (2019) study continued to elaborate on this, highlighting the need for legislation and accreditation in the use of BWCs. The study stated that legislation was an important aspect of the use of BWCs, requiring both local and national governments to have established laws and criteria on the use of BWCs, as well as who was to wear them and what to do with the recorded footage. Without a structured and standard set of laws, BWCs were prone to causing issues with the community, such as the aforementioned privacy concerns from citizens who were being recorded. Accreditation was also a stated necessity in the implementation of BWC. A separate agency was required to assess and accredit a police station on whether they were trustworthy enough to use BWCs without worrying about whether the technology would be abused or not. Friginal et al. (2024) conducted a

related study to this, asking officers their perspective on the use of BWCs and the necessary documentation and complexity of the documents to fully use BWCs properly and effectively. They state that despite how complex it is, the officers believe that proper legislation is integral to the use of BWCs, as they are a necessary, practical, and effective tool in conducting police operations in the modern era. Both accreditation, proper documentation, and legislation were required to allow BWCs to function properly and with little to no problems from the growing public, as well as PNP officers. Despite this, many countries still lack these two fundamental aspects, which might lead to problems around BWCs.

Ariel et al. 's (2016) study discussed how there was an increase in violence towards police when they were seen wearing body-worn cameras. While other factors existed regarding the reason as to why this was the case, several officers saw this as making them potential targets for criminals and assaults, which might lead to them refusing to wear BWCs despite the potential advantages and benefits they provided.

Cueme’s study (2024) discussed another challenge faced by law enforcement in implementing BWCs, that being the cost of implementing and maintaining them. Concerning their cost, a sizable budget was required to purchase BWCs, maintain their condition in the field, train officers in their use and care, and purchase the other pieces of equipment and technology required to process and store the large amounts of recordings captured. Cueme’s study highlighted how a large budget was important if a police force wished to implement and continuously use body-worn cameras.

Jurado and Quinto's (2023) study stated how new technology being implemented and adopted in the Philippines and used in law enforcement, like body-worn cameras, faced challenges about the current infrastructure of the Philippines as a whole. The study discussed how Philippine officers were working with new technology that they were untrained in their proper use of, had inadequate systems in place that could fully utilize and support the use of this new technology, such as computers that could process and store large amounts of data, and had a lacking number of purchased devices to be fully used and trained with. Retiza et al. (2024) further elaborate on this, stating how in their conducted study, officers cited how "competence affected the performance" and that "technical problems invalidated an officer's actions." This means that the unfamiliarity of using BWCs for some officers can affect how they perform and act during police operations, and should technical issues occur for officers with their BWCs, it may indicate that the officer is incompetent and that they have made a crucial mistake in their duties, which can impact cases. All of these challenges presented proved to be obstacles that might hinder the proper use and adoption of BWCs.

Despite these challenges, some studies, like those of Maskály et al. (2017), suggested that BWCs could strengthen police-community relationships, decrease misconduct, and provide evidence for law enforcement efforts. But they also highlighted how further research was needed to fully understand the social and legal implications of widespread BWC adoption in policing. In the research study of Canete et al. (2024) and Tafaleng-Ullalim (2024), both studies emphasized the

essential implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) and alternative recording devices (ARDs) in police operations to promote transparency, accountability, enhanced capabilities, and improved safety and to help facilitate documentation. These devices were required to remain operational at all times during the execution of search and arrest warrants, as well as during warrantless arrests. The recorded footage would be submitted to the court, accompanied by an affidavit confirming its authenticity. The study underscored the importance of police personnel adhering to these guidelines and providing justifications for any instances of non-compliance.

The resolution of the Supreme Court and the operational guidelines of the Philippine National Police (PNP) reinforced the incorporation of these technologies to safeguard human rights and strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the community. Abalos et al.'s (2024) research study underscored important factors that facilitated the effective adoption of body-worn cameras and alternative recording devices in the execution of warrants. Key elements encompassed effective leadership and management backing, thorough training for personnel, well-defined policies and procedures, active community involvement, and transparency, along with ongoing monitoring and assessment. The research highlighted that tackling these factors could greatly improve the effectiveness of body-worn cameras and ARDs in fostering accountability, transparency, and public trust in law enforcement operations.

Aquino et al.'s (2024) exploratory study evaluated the implementation of alternative recording devices (ARDs) in patrol operations and the execution of

warrants in the PRO CALABARZON region. The research highlighted significant challenges and impacts related to the deployment of these devices, offering important insights for the formulation of policy. All of this highlights that despite the challenges that arise with the use of BWCs, it is necessary to identify these challenges and to tackle them to improve transparency, accountability, and operational efficiency within law enforcement.

1.3.3 Synthesis of the Related Studies

The related studies highlighted both the present advantages and disadvantages of BWCs in law enforcement. The advantages shown in all the studies focused on an increase in transparency, officer accountability, and public trust. With the implementation of BWCs, officers were more inclined to conduct investigations, arrests, and police operations with less use of force and following proper protocol to perform their duties amicably and with little to no misconduct from the acting officers. Meanwhile, on the negative side, arguments on the privacy concerns of citizens arose on whether it was justified for them to be recorded despite not doing anything illegal. Other concerns involved how officers might lose credibility should they testify if their testimony is not found in the BWC footage. Both sides presented good arguments on the positives and negatives related to BWCs, but there was more emphasis on the positive aspects of BWCs and their many advantages in helping officers be more accountable for their actions and thus build trust within the community.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) have been widely adopted by police agencies to enhance accountability and transparency among law enforcement officers. Research indicated that BWCs could reduce use-of-force incidents, certain crime rates, and court costs. They might also protect citizens from police misconduct and officers from false allegations from citizens. Studies suggested that police and the public generally supported BWC adoption, which could enhance police legitimacy and accountability. BWCs impacted internal organizational processes, including the use of police operation footage for training, supervision, and reporting on police misconduct.

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) in the use of policing have garnered significant research attention in the past few years due to their rise in prevalence. According to a theory by Jones (2020) in his study, "Theorizing Police Body-Worn Cameras," the adoption of BWCs by law enforcement could be understood through structural contingency theory. In layman's terms, the theory discussed how the performance of an organization, such as the police force, depended on how the organization was able to handle and overcome uncertainty and risk. BWCs had enhanced people-processing and environment-changing aspects of police organizations with tangible goals, which resulted in less risk and uncertainty for officers conducting their practices. The effectiveness of BWCs in deterring aggressive police-public encounters depended on officer discretion, with strong discretion linked to weak deterrence and increased use of force, while weak discretion was associated with strong deterrence and reduced forceful responses. These theories provided

insights into the complex dynamics of BWC implementation and its impacts on policing practices.

The debate surrounding police body-worn cameras (BWCs) encompasses ethical, privacy, and societal implications. Some argued for the conditional acceptance of BWCs, addressing teleological benefits and refuting deontological objections related to mistrust and privacy violations. However, increased transparency through BWCs might pose ethical and privacy threats, particularly for vulnerable victims of domestic and sexual violence. They emphasized the need for ethical policy principles to mitigate potential harms. Law enforcement highlighted the importance of considering contextual variations in BWC implementation and outcomes, framing BWCs as a new form of safety surveillance. The adoption of this technology raised questions about societal implications and the balance between transparency and control. Overall, these papers underscored the complex philosophical considerations surrounding BWCs in law enforcement.

Further research was needed to understand the contexts in which BWCs were most beneficial and their impact on the general public.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

The PNP had embraced the implementation of body-worn cameras to accomplish several objectives: to ensure precise documentation of interactions between police and the community, arrests, critical incidents, tactical responses, and various police operations and related law enforcement activities. PNP personnel improved their ability to evaluate and scrutinize police operations by utilizing audio and video recordings; they could record crimes, accidents, and other

significant incidents for use in police operations or to present cases to the appropriate courts. Public safety, order, interest, and the privacy of communication between PNP personnel and citizens had to be the foremost priorities of PNP personnel when utilizing BWC.

A.M. No. 21-06-08-S.C. (2021), a resolution from the Supreme Court of the Philippines titled "Rules on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras in the Execution of Warrants," delineated the guidelines and policies governing the use of body-worn cameras in warrant execution. The main objective was to guarantee transparency, accountability, and the safeguarding of constitutional rights. The resolution highlighted the significance of incorporating body-worn cameras to enhance law enforcement efforts while ensuring the protection of essential human rights. The document also addressed concerns related to privacy and data protection, ensuring that the use of body-worn cameras adhered to existing legal frameworks. This issuance could be regarded as a document mandated by the court.

The Supreme Court established this rule on body cameras following significant pressure from lawyers and activists who called for the Court's intervention in the rising incidents of alleged police killings (Buan, 2021).

The Revised PNP Police Operational Procedures (2021), specifically Section 2-3 Requirements of Police Operations, outlined the implementation of body cameras. 2.7 Implementation of Body-Worn Camera a). Chain of Custody Regarding the Recordings in the Execution of Arrest and Search: The chain of custody for the recordings had to always be maintained to prevent any unauthorized access, review, or tampering. The following events were included:

recording the footage with the BWCs/ARDs; handing over the BWCs/ARDs utilized by the arresting or searching team, or the data by the media representative, to the respective Data Custodian; data downloading by the Data Custodian; redaction of personal identities by the Data Custodian or their representative, as necessary; and the Data Custodian was responsible for retrieving recording data and transferring it to an external media storage device. The recordings stored on an external media device were submitted and delivered to the court. The BWC/ARD was utilized during the execution of arrests and searches, including warrantless arrests when possible.

To adhere to the guidelines outlined in A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC regarding the use of BWC, the BWC/ARD was not to be utilized or activated under the following conditions: in police facilities, except when acting in an official capacity or as part of an investigative procedure; engaging in any personal activity in locations where individuals typically expect privacy, including restrooms, locker rooms, or break rooms. Violating this restriction could result in both criminal and civil liability.

It was not permissible to conduct personal activities in places where people expected privacy, such as homes, unless a legitimate arrest or search warrant, pertaining to the individuals or locations involved, deemed strip or body cavity searches necessary. Before the scheduled operation, PNP personnel engaged in strategic planning, setting up the system to secretly record conversations and communications during routine and non-law enforcement activities.

The warrant could be issued among confidential informants or undercover officers; during private conversations between the person being recorded and

others, such as lawyers, clergy, peer support counselors, and healthcare providers; on the grounds of any public, private, or parochial elementary or secondary school, hospital, church, or other place of worship, unless there was an immediate threat to life or health; or in any other situation described by the court issuing the warrant. This was due to constitutional privilege, which prioritized the individual's dignity over the public's need for recording. Body-worn cameras were currently in use by fourteen (14) city police stations/offices and numbered police stations of two city police offices within Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3). Law enforcement officers attached these compact cameras to their chests or heads to record interactions with the public. A microphone on the camera recorded sound, and internal data storage allowed for the storage of video footage for later review. Officers primarily wore them while carrying out duties that necessitated open and direct interaction with the public, particularly during official police operations.

Based on the approved NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2017-369, entitled “Approving the PNP-Uniformed and Equipment Standardization Board (UESB) Resolution No. 2017-010 dated March 14, 2017, that Prescribes the Minimum Standard Specifications for Body-Worn Cameras and Dash Cameras,” approved and signed by (PMGEN) CATALINO S. CUY, Ret., OIC, DILG, dated July 5, 2017.

Body-worn cameras (BWCs) were small audio and video recording devices worn by police officers to capture interactions with the public. While this form of technology was not new, its widespread adoption in policing in recent years gained support from the public and police leadership. BWCs aimed to improve accountability, transparency, and evidence collection. Research on BWC

effectiveness has shown positive results that led to law enforcement reducing the use of force and an increase in convictions due to captured and recorded evidence. This study is anchored on an Input-Process-Output (IPO) framework, which serves to contextualize the factors that affect the implementation and operational impact of BWCs within Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3). The end goal is to develop informed and responsive policy recommendations to enhance current protocols.

The input component of the framework comprises essential elements that enable the BWC initiative. These include the current deployment of the technology across PRO3, the legal and institutional guidelines that inform its use, the availability and adequacy of training programs, and the logistical and resource support from within the organization. Also integral to the input layer are public expectations, shaped by growing demands for law enforcement to exercise professionalism, reduce the incidence of abuse, and protect community welfare.

The legal context surrounding BWC use is well-defined by A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC (2021), a Supreme Court issuance establishing rules on their use during warrant execution. The resolution outlines when and how cameras should be activated while balancing constitutional rights with operational necessities. Complementing this is the PNP's Revised Police Operational Procedures (2021), which stress the importance of protecting data integrity through a well-documented chain of custody, from the time footage is captured to its eventual storage or presentation in court. Additionally, NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2017-369 prescribes the technical standards for BWCs and dash cameras, ensuring uniformity and quality in equipment use nationwide.

BWCs are typically worn on an officer's chest or shoulder, capable of recording both audio and video during interactions with the public. These recordings can serve as vital evidence in investigations while also discouraging inappropriate behavior by either party. The use of such technology is thus seen not merely as a tool for surveillance but as a mechanism to cultivate ethical conduct and improve community relations.

The process phase of the framework captures the study's methodological path. This includes evaluating how BWCs are being implemented across PRO3 through structured interviews, surveys, and policy reviews. The aim is to identify areas of success and operational limitations, as well as measure the extent to which BWC usage aligns with intended objectives. This process also entails examining the practical influence of BWCs on reducing crime, ensuring officer accountability, and fostering trust between the police and the communities they serve. It further includes an assessment of operational dynamics, particularly how training quality, access to functional equipment, and the engagement of both Police Commissioned Officers (PCOs) and Police Non-Commissioned Officers (PNCOs) affect the use and sustainability of the program.

The output of the framework is the development of robust and evidence-based policies and guidelines aimed at improving BWC integration within police operations. These outputs are not merely technical but are envisioned to shape a responsive, transparent, and community-focused approach to policing.

Finally, the framework integrates a feedback mechanism, recognizing that effective implementation of technology like BWCs is an ongoing process that

requires continuous learning and adaptation. Insights gathered from the study will be essential in refining existing practices, addressing gaps in policy and training, and ensuring the long-term effectiveness of the initiative.

In essence, this framework acknowledges that while BWCs represent a valuable technological advancement, their true impact depends on the environment in which they are implemented. Organizational culture, legal mandates, operational readiness, and public engagement are all critical to the successful adoption of BWCs in Philippine policing. Through this structured approach, the study seeks to provide actionable insights that contribute to a safer, more accountable, and trust-driven system of law enforcement.

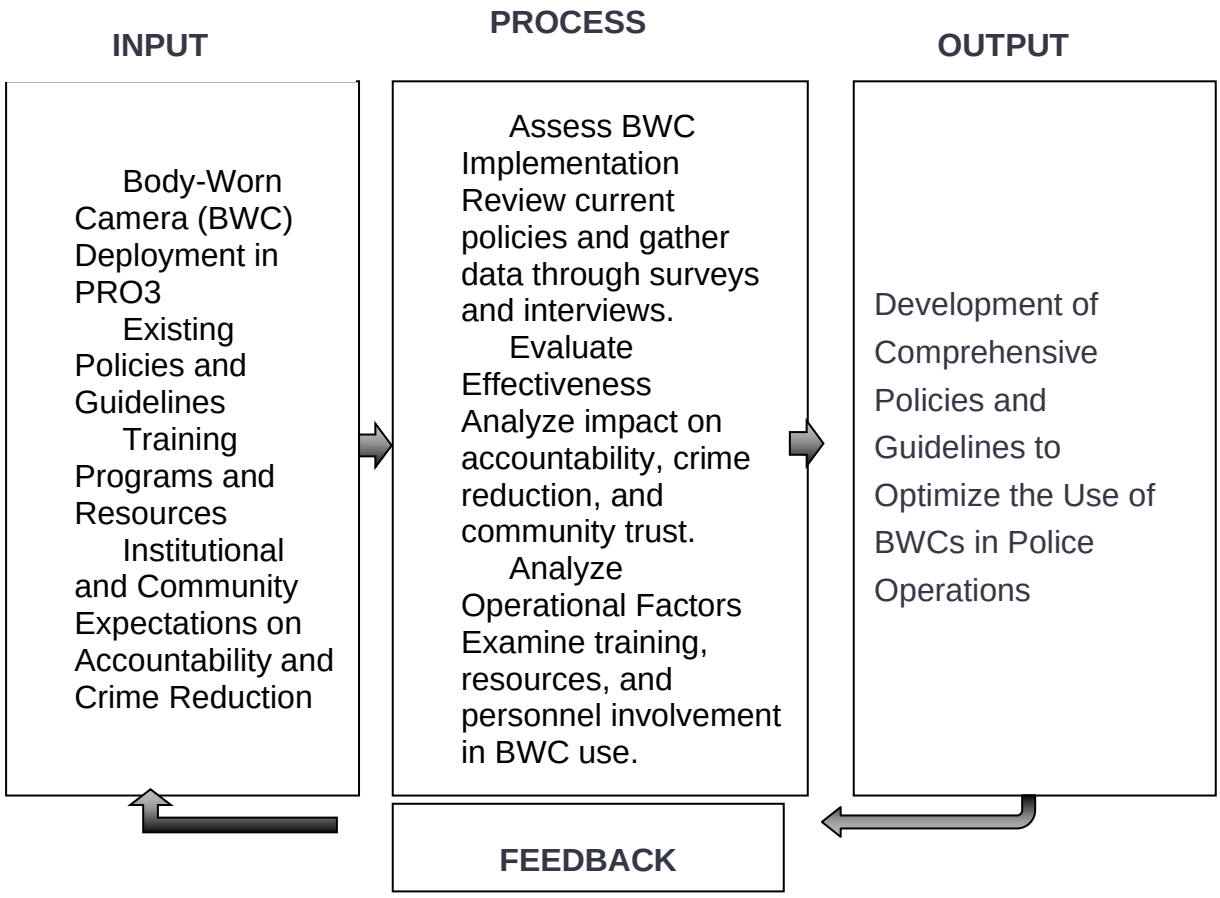

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

1.6 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study was the reassessment of the effectiveness and impact of BWCs on crime reduction, police accountability, and community trust. The study was significant due to the possibility that this innovative technology, which has recently been implemented and propagated in the Philippines, could contribute to the improvement of the relationship between law enforcement officers and citizens. Upon evaluating the comprehensive impact of BWCs on the aforementioned factors, the researcher could assess the current

status of BWCs, their effectiveness in strengthening police-citizen relations, and the areas that could be enhanced and elevated to further strengthen the implementation and crafting of BWC guidelines.

Another significance of the study was to enhance and add to the limited number of studies and literature on BWCs, both foreign, national, and local. This limited number of studies and literature heavily limited the amount of information available to the public and necessary law enforcement bodies, leading to concerns for the general populace on the effectiveness, uses, implementation, and capabilities of BWC. This study aimed to provide more information related to BWCs and might open up future research on the matter.

Furthermore, this study was significant to the following entities in compliance with A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC and PNP MC 2018-009. It was also pertinent because of their level of familiarity with the provisions of A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC and PNP MC 2018-009 were evaluated. Importantly, the implementation challenges of the BWC were examined in order to formulate recommendations. The findings could be used to fill a gap in the literature regarding the perceptions of police officers regarding body-worn camera equipment.

Philippine National Police. This served as a guide in considering how body-worn cameras would meet its mission needs and requirements prior to the procurement and use of the technology.

Community. The result of the study provided information and guidance to them on their lack of trust and confidence in law enforcement, since video footage captured during these officer-community interactions might provide better

documentation to help confirm the nature of events and support accounts articulated by officers and community residents.

Suspects who were the focus of police operations. The use of body-worn cameras during operations likewise benefited the individuals who were suspected to have violated the law because restraint in the use of force was observed by the PNP personnel in dealing with them, cautious that the human rights of the suspects were protected.

PNP leadership. The top PNP officials were guided by the results of this study in formulating policies that would support the adoption of best practices in the conduct of police operations with body-worn cameras, the adoption of which would enhance the public image of the police.

Policy Makers. The legislators were apprised of the best practices of the PNP in conducting police operations as a result of this study. Consequently, they drafted legislation to support the use of body-worn cameras in police operations nationwide and allocate funds for the purchase of equipment and training of PNP personnel on the use of body-worn cameras.

Future Researchers. Researchers and individuals interested in the study would be able to gain insights and inputs from the findings of this study as a useful reference for further research on the use of body-worn cameras.

Researcher. This study was beneficial to the researcher since they were members of the units under study and might open up ideas, avenues, and gaps in pursuing other studies, research, and literature related to body-worn cameras.

1.7 Definition of Terms

For purposes of uniformity and clarity, the following terms in this study were conceptually and operationally defined.

Alternative Recording Device (ARD). This means an electronic camera system that was not a BWC that was capable of creating, generating, sending, receiving, storing, displaying, and processing audio-visual recordings and might be worn during law enforcement operations. It might be used as a substitute for BWC in case of unavailability. To be used as a functional equivalent, it had to comply with the minimum standard specifications under A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC. (1) Video resolution: 720p or higher; (2) Frame rate: 30 frames per second; (3) Audio: Built-in; (4) Data and time stamping: Built-in; (5) GPS: Built-in; (6) Battery life: 8 hours continuous; (7) Storage: Capable of storing eight hours of continuous audio-video footage; and (8) Low-light recording: With night mode built in, a low lux rating, and/or an infrared (IR) illuminator.

Assessment. In the context of BWCs, assessment was the methodical evaluation of the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in law enforcement. This entailed the examination of a variety of factors, including transparency, accountability, public trust, officer behavior, and privacy concerns. To quantify the impact of BWCs on police-citizen encounters and overall policing practices, researchers employed a variety of methodologies, such as surveys, interviews, observational studies, and data analysis.

Barangay officials. This refers to an elected or appointed leader within the barangay—the smallest political and administrative unit in the Philippines—who

serves as a key partner in maintaining peace, order, and public safety at the community level. Barangay officials, including the **Punong Barangay (Barangay Captain)** and **Barangay Councilors**, play a vital role in supporting law enforcement operations by providing local intelligence, facilitating coordination with police units, enforcing barangay ordinances, and assisting in the implementation of national laws within their jurisdiction.

Body-worn cameras (BWCs). These are electronic camera systems for creating, generating, sending, receiving, storing, displaying, and processing audio-visual recordings that had to be worn by the PNP personnel during law enforcement operations.

BWC Computer Device. It refers to the BWC software, including its designated computer station, storage media, server, and its peripherals used to operate and manage the BWC data recordings.

Capture. It refers to procedures that result in the storage of a record in a record-keeping system, including the registration and classification of the record and the addition of metadata about the record.

Component City Police Stations/City Police Offices. These are local units responsible for maintaining public safety and order within their respective city jurisdictions. Each city police station was headed by a chief of police/city director and operated under LGEs and the broader organizational structure of the PNP.

Data Custodian. It refers to a vetted PNP personnel under the office/unit/station implementing the arrest or search warrant, who had the sole

responsibility of downloading, redacting, storing, and safekeeping data recorded from BWCs/ARDs.

Data Repository. This refers to the designated area wherein all archived video footage was stored/kept.

Digital Multimedia Evidence (DME). It consists of all digital recordings, to include but not be limited to audio, video, and their associated metadata.

Disposition. This includes decision-making regarding any of the following actions: transfer of records that had not reached the end of their retention periods to a records storage facility, transfer of permanent records that had historical value to an archival institution, or disposal of temporary records after the expiration of their retention periods.

Document. It refers to information or data fixed in some medium, which did not contain or constitute evidence of an official transaction.

Ex parte motion. This refers to a legal proceeding or communication that was a request made to a court without notifying the other party involved in the case.

External Media Storage Device. It is a portable device that could be connected to an information system, such as a computer or network, to provide data storage.

Impact. This means the various effects and outcomes that resulted from the implementation of policies, practices, technologies, or events.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) Device. This covers the hardware (computer, mobile phone, digital camera, sound/video recorder, etc.), software, protocols, digital storage, and communication media used by the device as a system.

Law enforcement. It refers to the structured and systematic implementation of laws, policies, and regulations to ensure public safety, maintain peace and order, and uphold the rule of law.

Law Enforcement Officer. This refers to the PNP personnel authorized by law to conduct law enforcement and special police operations, including but not limited to preventing, investigating, apprehending, or detaining individuals suspected or convicted of offenses punishable under Philippine laws, and other similar police and law enforcement activities.

Metadata. This includes any digital identifiers that were captured as part of the actual recording, such as date/time, GPS coordinates, labeling, etc.

Operationalization. It refers to the process of translating abstract or broad law enforcement concepts into specific, actionable strategies, procedures, or tactics that could be effectively implemented by law enforcement agencies.

Police accountability. It refers to the mechanisms, policies, and practices designed to ensure that police officers and law enforcement agencies are held responsible for their actions and conduct.

Public trust. It refers to the confidence and belief that the community has in the integrity, competence, and reliability of an institution or individual. In the

context of public institutions like law enforcement, government, or healthcare, public trust was crucial for effective functioning and cooperation.

Real-Time Monitoring System. Real-time monitoring of BWC enables the command center and supervisors to monitor, communicate with, and supervise field personnel/teams in real time in the command center or while on the go on mobile devices such as phones or tablets, providing complete flexibility for the PNP to monitor, guard, and provide real-time supervision and guidance of personnel/teams within their AOR.

Recording. It refers to digital material generated as a result of using BWCs/ARDs, which contains images and audio-video footage. It included copies of the material created by way of copying to portable media storage and other data repositories.

Redaction. It is an act or instance of selecting or adapting (as by obscuring or removing sensitive information) for publication or release.

Unredacted. This refers to images visible, not removed or hidden.

Videographer. It is a PNP personnel who used BWC/ARD to capture, record, and video police operations and activities.

1.8 Statement of the Problem

This study evaluates the impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on law enforcement within Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3), focusing on the anticipated effects of BWC usage on police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust. Specifically, it will aim to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of implementation of the use of BWCs in law enforcement in terms of the following:

1.1. Police Accountability

1.2. Crime Reduction

1.3. Community Trust?

2. Is there a significant difference in the level of implementation of the use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement in terms of the identified variables, according to the police officers and barangay officials?

3. What is the level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras in law enforcement in terms of the following:

3.1. Police Accountability

3.2. Crime Reduction

3.3. Community Trust?

4. Is there a significant difference in the level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras in law enforcement in terms of the identified variables according to group?

5. Is there a relationship between the level of implementation and the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in law enforcement activity?

6. What challenges are encountered by the PRO3 officers in the use of body-worn cameras during their law enforcement activities?

7. Based on the findings, what policy may be developed to enhance the effective use of body-worn cameras?

1.9 **Hypothesis**

1. There is a significant difference in the level of implementation of the use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement in terms of the identified variables, according to the police officers and barangay officials.

2. There is a significant difference in the level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras in law enforcement in terms of the identified variables according to group.

3. There is a relationship between the level of implementation and the effectiveness of body-worn cameras in law enforcement activity.

Chapter 2

Methodology

This chapter presents the research design, method, and procedures that the researcher used to gather the necessary data to complete the study. This includes the research design and methodology, population and locale of the study, scope and limitations of the study, gathering tools, gathering procedures, treatment of data, and ethical considerations.

2.1 Research Design

This study sought to re-evaluate the impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on law enforcement within Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3), focusing on the effects of BWC usage on police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust. The research design involved is an explanatory sequential mixed methods design. Explanatory sequential research is a type of research design that revolves around research questions that have not yet been studied at a deeper level. Explanatory research utilizes quantitative data collection and analysis and is followed by qualitative data collection and analysis to provide further explanation or interpretation of the quantitative findings. It was also often referred to as interpretive research or a grounded theory approach due to its flexible and open-ended nature. An explanatory research design aimed to further assess and deepen the understanding of the effectiveness, impact, and application of body-worn cameras.

Mixed-methods research combined quantitative data, such as results of surveys or surveillance measures, with qualitative approaches to understanding

attitudes and perceptions that were the precursors of human behavior. Quantitative research is the process of collecting and analyzing numerical data. It could find patterns and averages, make predictions, test causal relationships, and generalize results to wider populations. Quantitative research was applied in this study when the demographic data were collected. Qualitative research, on the other hand, gathered participants' experiences, perceptions, and behavior. It answered the hows and whys instead of how many or how much. This was applied in the study when the level of effectiveness of the use of BWCs was determined, including Likert scale scoring.

2.2 Research Method

This study made use of a mixed-methods approach, which combined both quantitative and qualitative research methods. A descriptive quantitative study determined the level of impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on law enforcement within Police Regional Office 3 personnel and the effectiveness of BWC usage in terms of police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust, which were measured using a Likert scale. This also applied in determining and comparing the perceptions of the respondents on the level of effectiveness of BWCs according to their demographic characteristics. Additionally, this was used to determine if there was a significant relationship in the level of effectiveness of BWCs from their initial implementation to the present. Further, a qualitative method was employed to determine the challenges or limitations encountered by the PRO3 officers in the use of body-worn cameras during their law enforcement activities.

2.3 Population of the Study

The study was conducted in the 12 component city police stations and 2 city police offices of Central Luzon, or Police Regional Office 3. The target participants were the police officers assigned to the area of the study in PRO3 and the barangay officials in Central Luzon. Purposive sampling was utilized, which is a non-probability sampling technique designed for ease of gathering respondents. In purposive sampling, the researcher selected participants who satisfied the criteria set by the researcher. Inclusion criteria were the following: (1) personnel assigned in Region 3 for the last 3 years or more; (2) had experience in using body-worn cameras (BWCs) since their implementation; (3) Barangay officials; and (4) were willing to be participants in the research. On the other hand, the exclusion criteria were (1) newly assigned personnel in Region 3, (2) first-time users of body-worn cameras, (3) Barangay officials, and (4) those not willing to participate in the study. When assessing those who answered the challenges and limitations of implementing body-worn cameras, the inclusion criteria were the following: (1) personnel assigned in Region 3 for the last 3 years or more; (2) had experience in implementing body-worn cameras (BWCs); (3) Barangay officials and PNP law enforcers; and (4) were willing to be participants in the research. On the other hand, the exclusion criteria were (1) newly assigned personnel in Region 3, (2) non-implementers of body-worn cameras, (3) Barangay officials and PNP law enforcers, and (4) those not willing to participate in the study.

2.4 Locale of the Study

Central Luzon has been chosen as the locale of the study, considering its strategic and socio-economic importance, along with the pertinence of its existing public safety issues. Central Luzon, one of the most populous and economically vibrant regions in the Philippines, comprises a diversified and dynamic landscape of urbanized cities and rural municipalities. This diversity provides a representative context for assessing the implementation and effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in law enforcement. The existence of significant provinces and cities under Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3), encompassing several Police Provincial Offices and City Police Offices, offers a comprehensive and diverse law enforcement framework, suitable for evaluating police accountability and public trust in various circumstances.

Furthermore, Central Luzon's significant challenges with crime, infrastructural disparities, and socio-economic disparities highlight the pressing necessity for improved police transparency and initiatives to foster community trust. The region's hybrid economy and comparatively youthful, linguistically varied populace enhance its designation as an optimal site for examining community-police interactions.

Figure 2. Map of Central Luzon

Considering these considerations, Central Luzon presents a persuasive and pragmatic environment for examining the effects of BWCs, with results that could guide wider policy application in analogous places nationwide.

2.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research evaluated and assessed the impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on law enforcement within Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) since their implementation. The study was limited to the implementation and effectiveness of BWCs on police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust, with an emphasis on determining if there were varying perceptions between police officers and barangay officials.

The study targeted the police officers and barangay officials within Police Regional Office 3, where BWCs were a must before going on duty. Additionally, the participants of the study must have had experience with the BWCs since their implementation.

The study covered the component city police stations and city police offices of PRO3 during the specified time frame.

2.6 Data Gathering Tool/s

A research-made questionnaire was prepared based on an extensive literature review and research related to the necessary factors being measured in the study. The questionnaire was tested for validity and reliability before being disseminated to the population of the study. Also, letters for permission to distribute the questionnaire were written to the Dean of the Graduate School Department and the Directors of Police Regional Office 3, Directorate for Operations, and Directorate for Logistics. After endorsement, the questionnaires were disseminated. The data or information gathered was analyzed, summarized, and interpreted to pursue the specific purpose of conducting the study. Questionnaires were personally given and retrieved by the researcher. Structured questionnaires for the interview were also constructed. The data was then subjected to statistical treatment to answer the objectives of the study.

The questionnaire that was utilized in the data gathering was prepared by the researcher. The questionnaire that was used was composed of three significant parts. The first part of the questionnaire referred to the demographic profile of the respondents. The second part of the questionnaire focused on the

impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on law enforcement within police personnel of Police Regional Office 3, with emphasis on police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust, and the third part comprised essay questions assessing the challenges and limitations encountered in the implementation of BWCs.

When determining the level of implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs), the questionnaire used a 4-point Likert scale where 1 = not implemented, 2 = somewhat implemented, 3 = implemented, and 4 = fully implemented. When determining the level of effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs), the questionnaire used a 4-point Likert scale where 1 = not effective, 2 = somewhat effective, 3 = effective, and 4 = very effective. In addition, interview guides were used to determine the seriousness of the challenges and limitations encountered.

After preparing the questionnaire, it underwent expert validation and reliability testing to determine the appropriate usage of words, terms, and definitions in achieving the purpose of the study. The help of at least 3 experts was utilized to review the face and content validation of the questionnaire. The chosen experts were PNP officers from the police offices utilizing body-worn cameras (BWCs). Lastly, the researcher modified the instrument based on the experts' suggestions and recommendations. Following the validation procedure, the researcher employed at least 20 respondents in a pilot study to evaluate the reliability of the questionnaire. In addition, the respondents were consulted before the researchers executed the pilot testing. The result of the pilot test was processed using Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficient for Likert-type scales

data analysis tool to test the internal consistency of a questionnaire. A high correlation signaled a high internal consistency. As a standard procedure, the researcher computed using Cronbach's Alpha in Microsoft Excel, where a score of 0.9 or higher was regarded as excellent, 0.8 to 0.7 as good and acceptable, 0.6 to 0.5 as dubious and subpar, and less than 0.5 as unsatisfactory.

2.7 Data Gathering Procedure

The researcher first gathered the necessary paperwork and approval from the appropriate authorities to conduct the study in the specific areas. Then, the researcher began creating the questionnaire, pulling from multiple sources on ideas and concepts that answer the questions proposed by the researcher.

After preparing the questionnaire, it underwent expert validation and reliability testing to determine the appropriate usage of words, terms, and definitions in achieving the purpose of the study. The help of at least 3 experts was utilized to review the face and content validation of the questionnaire. The chosen experts were PNP officers from the police offices utilizing body-worn cameras (BWCs). Lastly, the researcher modified the instrument based on the experts' suggestions and recommendations. Following the validation procedure, the researcher employed at least 20 respondents in a pilot study to evaluate the reliability of the questionnaire. In addition, the respondents were consulted before the researchers executed the pilot testing. The result of the pilot test was processed using Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Coefficient for Likert-type scales data analysis tool to test the internal consistency of a questionnaire. A high correlation signaled a high internal consistency. As a standard procedure, the researcher computed using

Cronbach's Alpha in Microsoft Excel, where a score of 0.9 or higher was regarded as excellent, 0.8 to 0.7 as good and acceptable, 0.6 to 0.5 as dubious and subpar, and less than 0.5 as unsatisfactory.

Once the questionnaire was tested to establish its validity and reliability, permission to survey the chosen subjects was obtained. The researcher wrote a letter of consent for the study's participants, and data collection began when the dean of the graduate school department and the senior officers of the study site granted the request for data collection. The researcher personally distributed the research questionnaire to each respondent individually. The questionnaire took roughly 15–20 minutes to answer. Afterwards, the researcher personally collected the questionnaire. Finally, the data was tabulated, processed, analyzed, and interpreted with the assistance of a statistician.

2.8 Treatment of the Data

Data from the study were processed, analyzed, and interpreted using descriptive and inferential statistics. The data set was prepared using MS Excel and treated using JAMOVI and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) V.17. Descriptive statistics were applied in determining the level of implementation and effectiveness of BWCs in law enforcement. The level of implementation and effectiveness in the use of BWCs was measured using a 4-point Likert scale. A Likert scale was a rating scale that quantitatively assessed opinions, attitudes, or behaviors. It provided "a range of responses to a given question or statement" (Cohen et al., 2000). Since the response categories of a Likert scale had a rank order, it fell within the ordinal level of

measurement (Hansen, 2004), and the median was the appropriate measure of central tendency. The same applied to the degree of the challenges encountered by PRO3 officers in the use of body-worn cameras during their law enforcement activities.

Numerical Values	Median Scale Rating	Descriptive Rating
4	3.26 - 4.00	Fully Implemented
3	2.51 – 3.25	Implemented
2	1.76 – 2.50	Somewhat Implemented
1	1.00 – 1.75	Not Implemented

Numerical Values	Median Scale Rating	Descriptive Rating
4	3.26 - 4.00	Very Effective
3	2.51 – 3.25	Effective
2	1.76 – 2.50	Somewhat Effective
1	1.00 – 1.75	Not Effective

In determining whether there was a significant difference in the level of effectiveness of BWCs from the initial implementation in law enforcement according to respondents' characteristics, a non-parametric test, the Wilcoxon Signed-Rank test, was applied (Rey et al., 2011). A Wilcoxon signed-rank test served as the non-parametric counterpart of the dependent t-test.

Another treatment that was used was Spearman's correlation. Spearman's correlation was a nonparametric alternative to Pearson's correlation. Spearman's correlation for data was used for curvilinear, monotonic relationships and ordinal data. Statisticians also referred to Spearman's rank order correlation coefficient as

Spearman's ρ (rho). This treatment was utilized to determine the significant relationship between the level of implementation and the level of effectiveness in the use of BWCs in law enforcement activity.

Basic assumptions, like tests of normality and homogeneity, were conducted to justify the use of non-parametric tests in this study. Shapiro-Wilks was used for the test of normality, and Levene's test for equality of variance. A p-value of ≤ 0.05 indicates that the data were not normally distributed.

2.9 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were crucial in research to ensure the protection, well-being, and rights of individuals and communities involved. Informed consent was obtained from the participants, ensuring they understood the purpose, nature, and potential risks and benefits of the survey. Participants were given the option and freedom to decline participation or withdraw at any time without consequences. Participation in the survey was voluntary, without coercion or undue influence, and participants did not face negative consequences for declining to participate. The participants' responses were kept confidential and anonymous unless explicitly stated otherwise and agreed upon by participants. This included protecting their personal information and ensuring that data was stored securely, with strict observation of data privacy.

Privacy was observed by collecting only the necessary data and information for the survey's purpose and ensuring that it was used solely for research, avoiding intrusive or sensitive questions not directly relevant to the survey. Participants' data were safeguarded by implementing appropriate security measures to prevent

unauthorized access, loss, or misuse and complying with relevant data protection laws and regulations. The researcher took steps to minimize any potential harm or distress to the participants, including avoiding sensitive or triggering topics, providing support resources, and debriefing participants after any potentially distressing questions or tasks.

The purpose, procedures, and intended use of the survey were communicated to participants, with contact information provided by the researcher conducting the survey to address any questions or concerns they might have had. The survey was designed to ensure that it did not discriminate or unfairly target specific individuals or groups based on their characteristics. The survey data was used only for the stated research purposes, and findings were reported accurately and objectively, avoiding any misrepresentation or manipulation of data that could lead to bias or misleading results.

2.10. Dissemination of the Research Outcome

The research findings on the reassessment of the impact of body-worn cameras will be disseminated through various channels to share the insights and implications with relevant stakeholders. Key dissemination strategies will include

Academic Publications: The research study will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal focused on criminology education, technology in education, or simulation-based learning. This will allow the findings to be reviewed by experts and shared with the academic community.

Conference Presentations: The research will be presented at national or international conferences related to criminology education, educational

technology, or simulation-based learning. This will provide opportunities for peer engagement, feedback, and potential collaboration.

PCCR Stakeholder Workshops: Workshops will be conducted at PCCR to share the findings with faculty, administrators, and students. These sessions will help the PCCR community understand the implications of body-worn cameras for police accountability, teaching, and learning.

Online Resources: An online resource hub will be developed on the PCCR website to publish the research findings, best practices, and lessons learned regarding the use of body-worn cameras. This will make the information widely accessible.

Social Media and Press Releases: The research findings will be promoted through PCCR's social media platforms and official press releases to raise awareness about the impact of body-worn cameras on police accountability and public trust.

By disseminating the findings through academic publications, conferences, workshops, online platforms, and media outreach, the study will aim to raise awareness and promote understanding of body-worn camera use among the police force and the broader criminology community. This multi-pronged approach will ensure that the insights reach educators, researchers, students, and other key stakeholders.

Chapter 3
Results and Discussion

This chapter presents an in-depth analysis and discussion of the data collected from the respondents, offering significant implications for policy, practice, and future research concerning the implementation of BWCs in law enforcement operations in PRO3.

3.1 Level of implementation on the use of BWCs in law enforcement in terms of police accountability, crime reduction and community thrust

Police Accountability. Table 1 presents the level of implementation of body-worn cameras concerning police accountability, as perceived by police officers and barangay officials. The data reveals an overall weighted mean of 3.37 for police officers and 3.40 for barangay officials, both interpreted as Fully Implemented (FI). This indicates a strong consensus that the use of BWCs by law enforcement is widely practiced and accepted as a mechanism for ensuring police accountability. From the perspective of police officers, the most significant aspects were that recorded footage of BWCs was used to determine whether officers followed protocol and training (3.40), that BWCs provided an unbiased record of interactions between law enforcement and the public (3.37), and that police officers were more mindful of their actions and behavior because of BWCs (3.36). From the perspective of barangay officials, the most significant aspects were that recorded footage of BWCs was used to determine whether officers followed protocol and training (3.51), that BWCs served as evidence of police misconduct and were utilized to reprimand officers who violated standards (3.49), and that

supervisors used BWCs to assess whether officers complied with feedback and comments on their conduct (3.49).

Table 1.

Level of Implementation on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement in terms of Police Accountability

Police Accountability	Police Officers		Barangay Official	
	Med	Int	Med	Int
1. BWCs provide an unbiased record of instances between law enforcement and the public.	3.37	FI	3.32	FI
2. Police officers are more mindful of their actions and behavior because of BWCs.	3.36	FI	3.40	FI
3. The recorded footage of BWCs is used to determine if officers follow protocol and training.	3.40	FI	3.51	FI
4. Supervisors use BWCs to determine if officers comply with feedback and comments on their conduct.	3.33	FI	3.49	FI
5. Complaints from the public are resolved much faster because of BWCs	3.30	FI	3.48	FI
6. Recorded footage from BWCs can help law enforcement determine areas that need to be improved.	3.33	FI	3.43	FI
7. BWCs can provide evidence of police misconduct that can be used to reprimand violating officers.	3.33	FI	3.49	FI
Overall	**3.37**	**FI**	**3.40**	**FI**

**Legend: FI – Fully Implemented, I – Implemented, SI – Slightly Implemented, NI – Not Implemented.*

These findings suggest alignment between internal (police) and external (barangay officials) stakeholders on the value of BWCs in fostering ethical, professional policing. The perspectives of barangay officials and police officers presented in Table 1 suggest a shared understanding of the value of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in promoting police accountability. Both groups agree that BWCs benefit the community by providing objective, recorded footage of officers adhering

to training and protocols and by reinforcing behavior that is protective and service-oriented rather than harmful. This mutual perception reflects a recognition of BWCs as tools that promote professionalism, discipline, and public trust in law enforcement.

Table 1 specifically addresses the concept of police accountability, which refers to the mechanisms through which law enforcement officers and agencies are held responsible for their actions, particularly in cases involving misconduct, abuse of power, or violations of individual and community rights. Police accountability is a multifaceted construct that includes legal, institutional, and community-based dimensions aimed at ensuring transparency, fairness, and justice in policing practices.

Putranto (2022) contributes to this discourse by highlighting how the use of body-worn cameras encourages officers to be more mindful of their actions, comply with training and protocols, and perform their duties in an environment where conduct can be reviewed and evaluated. This supports the idea that BWCs foster a culture of responsibility and help mitigate the risks of misconduct.

Overall, the findings from Table 1 reveal that both police officers and barangay officials recognize the role of BWCs in assessing whether officers follow established standards of conduct. This consensus underscores the importance of training and procedural compliance in the delivery of police services. The implementation of BWCs reinforces these standards, helping ensure that officers perform their duties with accountability and integrity.

Moreover, BWCs serve as safeguards for the community by providing a reliable basis for evaluating police actions and resolving complaints. Importantly, the presence of BWCs also promotes self-awareness among officers, particularly during operational and investigative activities, thereby enhancing both individual and institutional accountability in law enforcement.

Crime Reduction. Table 2 illustrates the level of implementation regarding the use of BWCs in law enforcement, specifically in terms of crime reduction. When analyzing the results of the table, an overall score of 3.28 for police officers and 3.39 for barangay officials indicated that both types of respondents perceived that PNP officers fully implemented BWCs for crime reduction.

Table 2.

Level of Implementation on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement in terms of Crime Reduction

Crime Reduction	Police Officers		Barangay Official	
	Med	**Int**	**Med**	**Int**
1. Criminals are less likely to commit crimes in front of law enforcement because they wear BWCs.	3.23	I	3.37	FI
2. BWCs can help de-escalate a criminal act because officers and criminals are being recorded.	3.25	I	3.38	FI
3. Knowledge of BWCs will deter criminals from committing offenses.	3.23	I	3.46	FI
4. BWCs will help provide concrete and solid evidence to help prosecute and charge a criminal	3.38	FI	3.48	FI
5. Civilians are less likely to commit misconduct in front of law enforcement because they wear BWCs.	3.24	I	3.40	FI
6. Officers who wear BWCs make an area more secure because of their presence.	3.27	FI	3.47	FI
7. BWCs help provide officers with footage that can be reviewed to see crime patterns and prevent crime.	3.32	FI	3.48	FI
Overall	**3.28**	**FI**	**3.39**	**FI**

**Legend: FI – Fully Implemented, I – Implemented, SI – Slightly Implemented, NI – Not Implemented.*

From the perspective of police officers, the most significant aspects were that BWCs provided concrete and solid evidence to help prosecute and charge criminals (3.38), that BWCs helped provide officers with footage that could be reviewed to identify crime patterns and prevent crimes (3.32), and that officers wearing BWCs made an area more secure due to their presence (3.27). From the perspective of barangay officials, the most significant aspects were that BWCs provided concrete and solid evidence to help prosecute and charge criminals (3.48), that BWCs helped provide officers with footage that could be reviewed to identify crime patterns and prevent crimes (3.48), and that officers wearing BWCs made an area more secure due to their presence (3.47). The results of the table and the highest values highlight how both barangay officials and police officers share the same perspective regarding how BWCs help reduce crime. Both perspectives believe that officers who use BWCs can provide clear and concrete evidence that can be used to swiftly charge and prosecute criminals, as well as act as deterrents to criminals in areas they patrol.

The table focusing on crime reduction was highlighted in the table and is one of the perceived benefits of body-worn cameras. With their existence and implementation, BWCs acted as deterrents to stop criminals from committing crimes, as well as capturing footage of incidents and events that could be assessed and reviewed to facilitate the arrest and prosecution of offenders. Body-worn cameras, according to Sutton (2021), assisted officers by providing footage of events and incidents that could be used by prosecutors and law enforcement to detain criminals. This can lead to criminals being more careful or outright denying

acting out criminal intentions due to the fear and worry of being caught on camera through the use of BWCs. As shown in the results of the table and as an overall assessment, both police officers and barangay officials shared the perception that BWCs provided concrete and solid evidence to help prosecute and charge criminals, thus contributing to a safer community due to their implementation. They also shared similar views regarding BWCs, making areas safer and more secure due to their presence. An officer wearing a BWC signified that those actions were being recorded, and criminals committing unlawful acts were at a high risk of being caught and filmed, with the evidence being used for their arrest. This expedited their prosecution and potentially deterred criminals from engaging in unlawful behavior, thereby reducing crime and criminal activities.

Moreover, the consistent ratings between the two respondent groups underscore the growing institutional and community confidence in the operational benefits of BWCs. The convergence of perspectives suggests a shared understanding of their role not only in evidence gathering but also in shaping behavioral responses among civilians. This aligns with deterrence theory, which posits that the certainty of being monitored increases the perceived risk of detection, thereby discouraging criminal behavior. The slightly higher overall mean score from barangay officials (3.39) may reflect their closer interaction with the community and their recognition of BWCs as tools that foster order and cooperation at the grassroots level.

Community Trust. Table 3 illustrates the level of implementation regarding the use of BWCs in law enforcement, specifically in terms of community trust.

Table 3.

Level of Implementation on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement in terms of Community Trust

Community Trust	Police Officers		Barangay Official	
	Med	Int	Med	Int
1. BWCs record interactions with citizens, reassuring citizens that nothing wrong will occur between them.	3.29	FI	3.44	FI
2. Officers wearing BWCs are seen as more trustworthy and less likely to commit misconduct.	3.32	FI	3.44	FI
3. BWCs worn by patrolling officers help make a community more secure and safe.	3.32	FI	3.42	FI
4. BWCs can be used as evidence to reprimand offending officers who cause problems in the community.	3.29	FI	3.35	FI
5. BWCs can increase trust from the public, making citizens report to officers more frequently.	3.30	FI	3.35	FI
6. Some BWC footage can be shown to the public to show openness and improve community trust.	3.27	FI	3.32	FI
7. BWCs can record important evidence that can be used to support investigations and court cases to improve the community	3.35	FI	3.37	FI
8. The public feels more relaxed and reassured knowing officers are being recorded.	3.28	FI	3.38	FI
Overall	**3.24**	**I**	**3.31**	**FI**

**Legend: FI – Fully Implemented, I – Implemented, SI – Slightly Implemented, NI – Not Implemented.*

When analyzing the results of the table, an overall score of 3.24 for police officers and 3.31 for barangay officials indicated that PNP officers implemented BWCs for crime reduction, and barangay officials perceived those officers as fully implementing BWCs for crime reduction. From the perspective of police officers, the most significant aspects were that BWCs recorded important evidence that could be used to support investigations and court cases to improve the community (3.35), that officers wearing BWCs were seen as more trustworthy and less likely to commit misconduct (3.32), and that BWCs worn by patrolling officers helped

make a community more secure and safe (3.32). From the perspective of barangay officials, the most significant aspects were that BWCs recorded interactions with citizens, reassuring citizens that nothing wrong would occur between them (3.44); that officers wearing BWCs were seen as more trustworthy and less likely to commit misconduct (3.44); and that the public felt more relaxed and reassured knowing officers were being recorded (3.38). The perspectives of both police officers and barangay officials in this table are shared and present how the existence of BWCs acts as a deterrent for officers and reassurance for citizens and the community, in that police officers are more mindful of their actions and will avoid conducting themselves wrongly, and that the citizens feel reassured the officers wearing BWCs will not harm them or act wrongfully in their presence.

A study conducted by Seeger (2020) discussed how community trust was a necessary aspect in policing. A community that trusted and respected its officers was much more cooperative during investigations, had greater compliance with laws, and was more likely to report criminals and crimes occurring in their neighborhood. This demonstrated the importance of implementing BWCs and how they helped raise the trust of the community, allowing officers to gain an advantage in policing. The overall results of the table emphasized the importance of BWCs in building community trust and how this can provide advantages and assistance to police officers. Police officers viewed BWCs as adding a layer of protection for citizens and civilians, knowing an officer's actions were being recorded, thereby reducing the likelihood of misconduct or abuse of power. BWCs also helped build community trust by acting as a deterrent for criminals whenever officers patrolled

wearing them. This further contributed to assisting communities, as BWC-wearing officers provided heightened security and safety for their communities and the areas they patrolled.

3.2 Significant Difference in the Level of Implementation on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras in Law Enforcement

Table 4.

Comparative Analysis in the Level of Implementation on the Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement

Level of Implementation on the Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement	Type Police Officers		Barangay Officials		Mann-Whitney Z-Value	Test Statistics p-value
	Med	Int	Med	Int		
Police Accountability	3.37	FI	3.40	FI	-0.435	0.663
Crime Reduction	3.28	FI	3.39	FI	-1.105	0.269
Community Trust	3.24	I	3.31	FI	-0.992	0.321

significant @ ≤ 0.05; Legend: FI – Fully Implemented, I – Implemented, SI – Slightly Implemented, NI – Not Implemented.

Table 4 presents a comparative analysis of how different types of respondents perceive the level of implementation of BWCs in law enforcement across various aspects. The level of implementation of the use of BWCs in law enforcement included police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust.

To determine if there was a significant difference between the types of respondents, the Mann-Whitney nonparametric test was used. A p-value of less than or equal to 0.050 was considered significant. Based on the Mann-Whitney z-value of all the variables, it was found that there was no significant difference between PNP officers and barangay officials. This lack of significant difference

highlighted how both types of respondents shared the same perspective on the level of implementation of BWCs.

Both PNP officers and barangay officials recognized the value of implementing BWCs in police accountability, which allowed acting and patrolling officers to be held responsible for their actions. They also acknowledged the role of BWCs in crime reduction, where officers wearing BWCs acted as deterrents to potential criminals and facilitated the capture of criminals using recorded footage. Additionally, both groups emphasized community trust, where the presence of BWCs ensured officers adhered to training and protocols while discouraging misconduct or wrongful behavior.

These shared perspectives underscored how the implementation of BWCs benefited not only the community but also policing as a whole. A study by Crow et al. (2017) supported these findings, discussing the positive impact of BWCs on community relations and policing. Both the aforementioned study and the results of this study shared similarities, indicating that community leaders, such as barangay officials and police officers, had a common perception of the advantages and benefits provided by body-worn cameras.

BWCs were found to decrease potential misconduct and unlawful behavior among corrupt police officers, promote trust within the community, and provide footage of crimes that facilitated the faster and more efficient capture and prosecution of criminals. Overall, BWCs demonstrated their dual role in aiding police officers in their duties and enhancing the safety, security, and trustworthiness of the community.

Furthermore, the absence of statistically significant differences in the responses of police officers and barangay officials confirms a shared and consistent perception of BWC implementation across both groups. Despite minor variations in median scores, the uniformity in their assessments implies that BWCs are broadly accepted as effective tools for improving police accountability, reducing crime, and strengthening community trust. This convergence supports the application of **deterrence theory**, which posits that the certainty of being monitored discourages both officers and civilians from engaging in misconduct. Simultaneously, it aligns with **Procedural Justice Theory**, which emphasizes that when law enforcement behaves transparently and fairly, it enhances public perceptions of legitimacy and fosters voluntary compliance with the law. The consistent support from both institutional actors and community leaders reinforces the notion that BWCs serve not only as a tool for documentation but also as a mechanism to reinforce ethical policing practices. This alignment facilitates the development of standardized protocols and policies that can be effectively implemented across different localities, ensuring sustainability and public acceptance.

3.3 Level of Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Law Enforcement

Police Accountability. Table 5 presents the level of effectiveness of the use of BWCs in law enforcement, specifically in terms of police accountability. When looking at the results of the table, an average of 3.29 for police officers and 3.31 for barangay officials indicates that both types of respondents see that the

use of body-worn cameras by police officers is very effective, according to both police officers and barangay officials.

Table 5.

Level of Effectiveness on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement in terms of Police Accountability

Police Accountability	Police Officers		Barangay Official	
	Mean	Int	Mean	Int
1. BWCs provide an unbiased record of instances between law enforcement and the public.	3.29	VE	3.32	VE
2. Police officers are more mindful of their actions and behavior because of BWCs.	3.29	VE	3.37	VE
3. The recorded footage of BWCs is used to determine if officers follow protocol and training.	3.30	VE	3.40	VE
4. Supervisors use BWCs to determine if officers comply with feedback and comments on their conduct.	3.27	VE	3.29	VE
5. Complaints from the public are resolved much faster because of BWCs	3.24	E	3.43	VE
6. Recorded footage from BWCs can help law enforcement determine areas that need to be improved.	3.28	VE	3.40	VE
7. BWCs can provide evidence of police misconduct that can be used to reprimand violating officers.	3.28	VE	3.40	VE
Overall	**3.29**	**VE**	**3.31**	**VE**

**Legend: VE – Very Effective. E – Effective. SE – Somewhat Effective. NE – Not Effective.*

The highest of these from the perspective of police officers are that the recorded footage of BWCs is used to determine if officers follow protocol and training (3.30), BWCs provide an unbiased record of instances between law enforcement and the public (3.29), and police officers are more mindful of their actions and behavior because of BWCs (3.29). The highest of these from the perspective of barangay officials are that complaints from the public are resolved much faster because of BWCs (3.43), that the recorded footage of BWCs is used to determine if officers follow protocol and training (3.40), and that BWCs can

provide evidence of police misconduct that can be used to reprimand violating officers (3.40). Both police officers and barangay officials share in the perception of the effectiveness of BWCs in holding police accountable for their actions. The results of this table highlight the importance placed on BWCs in providing police accountability and how effective they are in doing so.

In support of assessing the effectiveness provided by BWCs, Henstock and Ariel's (2017) study reports as much as a 35% decrease in the use of excessive force in officers who wear body-worn cameras, showing how BWCs are an effective tool in deterring officers from acting irrationally and performing any form of misconduct. Police accountability is often seen as a hotly debated topic due to the power and responsibility possessed by uniformed officers, and oftentimes, there are cases of police officers abusing their powers or acting in a way unbefitting of this responsibility and getting away with it. But the presence of BWCs as well as the results on the perspective of both police officers and barangay officials show how effective they are in holding officers accountable for their actions, making sure they conduct themselves according to proper training and protocol, and providing important evidence for judiciary and legislative boards to conduct their investigations should any misconduct and misbehavior be conducted by corrupt officers.

In conclusion, all of these present that BWCs are an effective tool in pushing and enforcing police accountability for the benefit of both the officers and the community. When BWCs are implemented, they become effective in holding officers accountable for their actions, as well as providing recorded video evidence

that can be useful in determining whether they follow protocols and training and whether they should be reprimanded and how severe or mild their reprimand will be.

Furthermore, the consistency in the perception of effectiveness between police officers and barangay officials demonstrates a mutual acknowledgment of BWCs as a mechanism for reinforcing ethical conduct within the ranks of law enforcement. This shared understanding suggests that BWCs are not merely surveillance devices but play a developmental role in promoting professionalism and discipline among officers. By providing real-time accountability, BWCs encourage officers to adhere more strictly to established procedures and foster a culture of self-awareness. This supports the principles of **procedural justice**, where transparency and consistency in law enforcement behavior contribute to institutional legitimacy. Additionally, the positive evaluation from barangay officials—community-based public servants—emphasizes the growing trust in the system, as local leaders recognize BWCs as a critical safeguard against potential abuse of power. These perspectives together affirm that BWCs enhance both internal governance and external trust, thus amplifying their value in modern policing practices.

Crime Reduction. Table 6 presents the perceived effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in reducing crime, as evaluated by police officers and barangay officials. The overall mean ratings of 3.25 (effective) for police officers and 3.36 (very effective) for barangay officials indicate that both respondent groups

recognize BWCs as a valuable tool for crime reduction, although barangay officials expressed slightly stronger agreement.

Table 6.

Level of Effectiveness on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement in terms of Crime Reduction

Crime Reduction	Police Officers		Barangay Official	
	Med	Int	Med	Int
1. Criminals are less likely to commit crimes in front of law enforcement because they wear BWCs.	3.25	E	3.40	VE
2. BWCs can help de-escalate a criminal act because officers and criminals are being recorded.	3.23	E	3.35	VE
3. Knowledge of BWCs will deter criminals from committing offenses.	3.23	E	3.31	VE
4. BWCs will help provide concrete and solid evidence to help prosecute and charge a criminal	3.34	VE	3.37	VE
5. Civilians are less likely to commit misconduct in front of law enforcement because they wear BWCs.	3.22	E	3.36	VE
6. Officers who wear BWCs make an area more secure because of their presence.	3.26	VE	3.48	VE
7. BWCs help provide officers with footage that can be reviewed to see crime patterns and prevent crime.	3.29	VE	3.40	VE
Overall	**3.25**	**E**	**3.36**	**VE**

**Legend: VE – Very Effective, E – Effective, SE – Somewhat Effective, NE – Not Effective*

Among police officers, the top-rated indicators were the provision of concrete and solid evidence to support prosecution (3.34), the ability of BWCs to provide reviewable footage for identifying crime patterns and preventing future incidents (3.29), and the increased perception of security in areas patrolled by officers wearing BWCs (3.26). For barangay officials, the highest ratings were given to the belief that officers wearing BWCs make an area more secure (3.48),

that BWC footage helps identify crime trends (3.40), and that BWCs deter criminal acts when officers are visibly equipped with the technology (3.40).

These findings highlight a shared understanding of BWCs as both a reactive and proactive tool in crime prevention. Police officers emphasize the operational benefit of BWCs in capturing actionable evidence, thereby facilitating the prosecution process and enhancing investigative accuracy. Meanwhile, barangay officials focus on the preventive function of BWCs in creating a visible law enforcement presence that discourages criminal intent. The presence of BWCs signals to potential offenders that unlawful actions are likely to be recorded, thus increasing the perceived risk of apprehension and punishment.

This perspective is supported by the study of Petersen et al. (2021), which demonstrated that the presence of BWCs significantly reduces the likelihood of criminal incidents by increasing offender self-awareness and discouraging unlawful behavior. From a judicial standpoint, BWCs offer law enforcement a reliable means of securing admissible evidence, expediting case resolutions, and contributing to more transparent legal proceedings. Barangay officials, on the other hand, prioritize the broader societal benefit, particularly the enhancement of safety in their communities through visual deterrence and improved citizen confidence.

Moreover, the theoretical foundation of deterrence theory helps explain the mechanisms behind these findings. This theory posits that individuals are less likely to commit crimes when they perceive a high probability of being observed and apprehended. BWCs, as a visible form of surveillance, reinforce this perception by increasing the certainty of detection and accountability. Their

presence promotes self-regulation among both civilians and officers, leading to reduced criminal behavior and improved public order.

In conclusion, both police officers and barangay officials acknowledge the positive impact of BWCs in crime reduction, albeit from different operational standpoints. Police officers regard BWCs as an evidentiary tool to support prosecution, while barangay officials see them as an effective deterrent, enhancing the safety of the community. Despite this variation in emphasis, the overall consensus supports the integration of BWCs as a critical component in modern policing strategies aimed at crime prevention, community safety, and institutional trust. This shared perspective highlights the growing acceptance of technology-driven accountability measures in Philippine law enforcement. Their collective endorsement further reinforces the value of BWCs as a practical, evidence-based solution to address both operational challenges and public safety concerns.

Community Trust. Table 7 presents the level of effectiveness on the use of BWCs in law enforcement, specifically in terms of crime reduction. When looking at the results based on the table, an average of 3.23 for police officers and 3.31 for barangay officials indicates that police officers find the use of BWCs in law enforcement to be effective as well as the barangay officials find the use of BWCs to be very effective.

Table 7.

Level of Effectiveness on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement in terms of Community Trust

Community Thrust	Police Officers		Barangay Official	
	Med	Int	Med	Int
1. BWCs record interactions with citizens, reassuring citizens that nothing wrong will occur between them.	3.26	E	3.44	VE
2. Officers wearing BWCs are seen as more trustworthy and less likely to commit misconduct.	3.26	E	3.38	VE
3. BWCs worn by patrolling officers help make a community more secure and safe.	3.26	E	3.36	VE
4. BWCs can be used as evidence to reprimand offending officers who cause problems in the community.	3.29	VE	3.33	VE
5. BWCs can increase trust from the public, making citizens report to officers more frequently.	3.26	E	3.29	VE
6. Some BWC footage can be shown to the public to show openness and improve community trust.	3.24	VE	3.38	VE
7. BWCs can record important evidence that can be used to support investigations and court cases to improve the community	3.34	VE	3.40	VE
8. The public feels more relaxed and reassured knowing officers are being recorded.	3.24	E	3.36	VE
Overall	**3.23**	**E**	**3.31**	**VE**

**Legend: VE – Very Effective, E – Effective, SE – Somewhat Effective, NE – Not Effective*

The highest of these from the perspective of police officers is that BWCs can be used as evidence to reprimand offending officers who cause problems in the community (3.34) and that BWCs can be used as evidence to reprimand offending officers who cause problems in the community (3.29).

The highest of these, from the perspective of barangay officials, are that BWCs record interactions with citizens, reassuring citizens that nothing wrong will occur between them (3.44), and that BWCs can record important evidence that can be used to support investigations and court cases to improve the community (3.36).

Community trust is often seen to promote a much more active community that both supports the police and is more compliant in following and working with them to continue a peaceful relationship between the two parties. The results of the table highlight the varying views of both police officers and barangay officials, and how, despite both parties seeing the effectiveness of BWCs in building and promoting community trust, it is clear that barangay captains, the voice of the community, have a much higher level of expectation for their effectiveness than police officers.

From the perspective of police officers, according to the results, they value the effectiveness of BWCs in providing clear evidence and footage of citizens committing criminal acts and using that to apprehend and prosecute them. On the other hand, barangay captains value the effectiveness of BWCs in building community trust through having them on and acting as a deterrent to make misbehaving officers act respectfully and according to their training and protocols. Both show the priority of two different perspectives, with police officers focusing on performing their duties effectively and efficiently and barangay captains focusing on the betterment and safety of their community and its members. But both show that BWCs are effective tools in promoting community trust.

In the study by Bush et al. (2024), community trust is consistently discussed as an integral factor in policing and something that officers need to strive for to avoid public criticism as well as establish good relations with the people they are protecting. It heavily emphasizes how good and positive relations between police officers and members of the community can provide advantages to law

enforcement, with them being more cooperative towards officers and being more inclined to assist and report crimes to them.

In conclusion, the results of this table underscore the respondents' positive perceptions regarding the effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in law enforcement. The presence of BWCs elevates the level of accountability among police officers, fostering greater public trust by ensuring that their actions are subject to review and potential disciplinary measures in cases of misconduct. At the same time, BWCs offer reassurance to community members, who perceive the devices as effective deterrents against criminal activity, particularly during police patrols. This dual function—reinforcing responsible policing and enhancing community safety—contributes to stronger, more collaborative relationships between law enforcement and the public. Over time, such trust-based relationships are likely to improve community cooperation, which is essential for sustainable crime prevention efforts. Ultimately, the widespread implementation of BWCs supports a more transparent, ethical, and community-centered approach to modern policing.

3.4. Significant difference in the level of effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Law Enforcement

Table 8.

Comparative Analysis in the Level of Effectiveness on the Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement Along the Various Aspects Among the Different Types of Respondents

Level of Effectiveness on the Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement	Type				Mann-Whitney Z-Value	Test Statistics p-value
	Police Officers		Barangay Officials			
	Med	Int	Med	Int		
Police Accountability	3.29	VE	3.31	VE	-0.220	0.826
Crime Reduction	3.25	VE	3.36	VE	-1.124	0.261
Community Trust	3.23	E	3.31	VE	-1.116	0.264

**significant @ ≤ 0.05; Legend: VE – Very Effective, E – Effective, SE – Somewhat Effective, NE – Not Effective*

Table 8 presents a comparative analysis of the perceived effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in law enforcement across three key aspects: police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust. The comparison was made between two groups of respondents—police officers and barangay officials—using the Mann-Whitney U test, a non-parametric method suitable for comparing ordinal-level data from two independent samples. A p-value equal to or less than 0.05 was used to determine statistical significance.

As shown in Table 8, all p-values exceed the 0.05 threshold, indicating that there are **no statistically significant differences** in the perception of BWC effectiveness between the two groups across the three variables. This result suggests that both police officers and barangay officials generally share a common viewpoint regarding the positive impact of BWCs on law enforcement functions. Specifically, both groups rated BWCs as "very effective" in the domains of police

accountability and crime reduction. A slight variation appeared in community trust, where barangay officials rated BWCs as "very effective," while police officers rated them as "effective." However, this variation was not statistically significant.

These findings emphasize the shared belief among frontliners in public safety—both uniformed personnel and community-based officials—that BWCs are instrumental in promoting ethical policing, deterring crime, and strengthening community relationships. The absence of significant differences reinforces the idea that BWCs are not only operationally beneficial for law enforcement officers but are also perceived as valuable by local leaders who directly engage with the public. Both groups acknowledge the role of BWCs in ensuring transparency, streamlining evidence collection, and reinforcing officer conduct in the field.

The study by Headley et al. (2017) supports these observations, noting that officers equipped with BWCs tend to engage in more community-based interactions and adopt less confrontational methods during enforcement. Their findings affirm the idea that BWCs contribute to both effective policing and community integration, outcomes that are mirrored in the consistent perceptions of both respondent groups in this study. As BWCs continue to be integrated into daily police operations, their impact extends beyond internal accountability mechanisms to foster long-term public trust and cooperation. This alignment of perspectives between law enforcement and local governance serves as a strong foundation for more inclusive and community-oriented policing strategies in the future.

3.5 Relationship Between the Level of Implementation and Level of Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Law Enforcement

Table 9 is the relationship between the level of implementation and the level of effectiveness of the use of BWCs in law enforcement. The factors of level of implementation and the level of effectiveness include police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust. When looking over the entirety of the study, it highlights how there is a very strong relationship between the implementation of BWCs and their effectiveness in different policing activities. As BWCs are implemented to help in police accountability, crime reduction, and building community trust, they directly and positively impact their effectiveness in conducting and acting on those same factors. This emphasizes how there is a direct impact on the implementation of BWCs and how effective they are in building community trust, reducing crime, and holding police officers accountable for their actions.

From this, it is highly implied that the more BWCs are implemented and the better they are implemented in their many uses and given advantages, the more effective they become in conducting various police activities that benefit both the community and officers.

Table 9.

Relationship Between the Level of Implementation and Level of Effectiveness of Body-Worn Cameras in Law Enforcement

Predictor Implementation	Response Effectiveness	Spearman-rho ρ Coefficient Value	Interpretation	p-Value
Police Accountability	Police Accountability	0.765	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*
	Crime Reduction	0.779	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*
	Community Trust	0.819	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*
Crime Reduction	Police Accountability	0.728	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*
	Crime Reduction	0.838	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*
	Community Trust	0.833	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*
Community Trust	Police Accountability	0.760	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*
	Crime Reduction	0.812	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*
	Community Trust	0.861	Very Strong Relationship	0.000*

**significant @ ≤ 0.05*

Likewise, Salazar's (2022) study further supports and provides evidence for this discussion, citing how BWCs have a direct effect on how citizens perceive officers, how they conduct themselves in public, and how these officers can perform their duties safer and better thanks to having cameras that allow for them to record criminal acts as well as to exonerate them from unfounded complaints. The existence and use of BWCs leads to an overall positive impact for police officers in how effective they are at their duties and how they can assist in building good rapport and a positive image for the community.

In conclusion, if BWCs are fully implemented in law enforcement by police officers, law enforcement becomes more effective in being held accountable for their actions, reducing crime, and building positive community relations. The results of this table and Salazar's showcase the positive and direct impact the implementation of BWCs has and how it can generate an effective police force that not only can perform their duties at a higher level but also allows them to act in a way that aligns with their training and protocols and assist their communities and the people involved in them.

3.6. Challenges Encountered by the PRO3 Officers in the Use of Body-Worn Cameras During their Law Enforcement Activities

This explores the qualitative responses regarding the challenges faced by PRO3 officers in the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs) during law enforcement activities. The data were examined thematically, reflecting the insights and shared perceptions of both police officers and barangay officials. Seven key themes were identified based on the nature of the challenges encountered.

Theme 1: Privacy Concerns Affecting Public Engagement

A recurring challenge identified by respondents was the issue of privacy raised by the use of body-worn cameras (BWCs). One respondent shared, "Citizens become cautious or uneasy when they know they are being recorded," highlighting that the presence of BWCs may cause civilians to be less open or cooperative during interactions with law enforcement. This can particularly affect sensitive encounters, where trust and spontaneous communication are essential.

Theme	Respondents Contributed to the Theme	Illustrative Text
Privacy Concerns Affecting Public Engagement	Respondent 8,5,14,19,28,30	Respondent: *'Citizens become cautious or uneasy when they know they are being recorded.'*
Inconsistent Camera Usage and Perceptions of Manipulation	Respondent 4, 6, 12, 22, 27,29	Respondent: *'Some officers don't activate their cameras, and this causes public distrust.'*
Restricted Public Access to Footage	Respondent 1, 3, 9, 13, 17, 29	Respondent: *'There are times when the public cannot access footage that could help them.'*
Over-Reliance on BWCs at the Expense of Protocol	Respondent 5, 7, 11, 16, 21, 25	Respondent: *'Some rely too much on cameras and forget to follow proper protocols.'*
Financial and Maintenance Constraints	Respondent 3, 4, 8, 9, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28	Respondent: *'Maintaining and updating BWCs costs a lot; sometimes we don't have the budget.'*
Limitations in Footage Coverage	Respondent 1, 7, 16, 21, 23, 27, 30	Respondent: *'The cameras don't always catch the full picture or may record unnecessary footage.'*
Misinterpretation of BWC Footage	Respondent 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, 20, 23, 24, 30	Respondent: *'Even with footage, people might misread what's happening if they lack context.'*

For barangay officials, their primary concern involved safeguarding the privacy of residents. According to Poirier et al. (2023), civilians expressed anxiety that BWC footage could be misused, particularly if it were accessed without authorization or distributed improperly. This concern was heightened by the absence of clear, enforceable policies regarding how BWC data would be stored, accessed, or disposed of.

To promote community trust and public engagement, it is critical to establish concrete guidelines on data handling and inform the public about how their privacy

is protected. Public education and transparency can assure citizens that BWCs are not tools of surveillance but safeguards for fairness and accountability.

Theme 2: Inconsistent Camera Usage and Perceptions of Manipulation

Several respondents expressed concern regarding the inconsistent activation of BWCs by police officers. One respondent noted, “Some officers don’t activate their cameras, and this causes public distrust,” suggesting that perceived or actual gaps in camera usage could lead to speculation of intentional cover-ups or selective documentation of events.

This concern was not unfounded. In a widely publicized case, the death of 17-year-old Jemboy Baltazar sparked public outrage when it was revealed that the officer involved had turned off their body-worn camera during the operation (Gozum, 2023). This incident became a flashpoint, reinforcing public fears that BWCs could be manipulated or misused, thus eroding community trust in law enforcement.

Such inconsistencies undermine the intended transparency of BWCs. Law enforcement agencies must therefore enforce strict compliance policies and ensure that officers understand both the procedural and ethical implications of failing to activate BWCs during official duties.

Theme 3: Restricted Public Access to Footage

Another concern frequently raised by respondents was the limited accessibility of BWC footage to the public. One participant remarked, “There are times when the public cannot access footage that could help them,” emphasizing

that transparency is hindered when citizens or complainants are denied access to recordings that could support investigations or clarify police actions.

This issue resonates particularly with barangay officials, who view public access to BWC data as critical to community trust. Without it, unresolved complaints may escalate into suspicion or public dissatisfaction. Ramirez et al. (2021) noted that “when BWC footage is withheld without due process, it creates perceptions of selective justice and can erode institutional credibility.”

To address this, there must be well-defined policies governing the timely and fair release of BWC footage, especially for concerned individuals or legal representatives. Clear criteria for access, combined with privacy protections, can help ensure that BWC data serves its purpose as a tool for justice and public confidence.

There is a clear need for transparent and equitable access policies that allow civilians or legal representatives to request and review relevant recordings while respecting privacy and data security laws.

Theme 4: Over-Reliance on BWCs by Officers

Some respondents indicated that officers may become overly dependent on BWCs, neglecting foundational policing procedures. One stated, “Some rely too much on cameras and forget to follow proper protocols,” pointing to a shift away from critical thinking and situational awareness.

From the police officers' perspective, this concern was particularly pronounced. Officers reported worrying that the increasing reliance on BWCs

could lead to a gradual erosion of traditional skills, including de-escalation techniques and verbal negotiation. Sutherland (2018) noted that while BWCs can act as a deterrent to criminal activity, they should not replace the situational tools officers develop through training. Instead, BWCs should be used to complement, not substitute, the officer's judgment and protocol adherence in the field.

Addressing this requires reinforcing training on communication, situational analysis, and legal procedures so that officers do not become passive operators of technology but remain active agents of law and justice.

Theme 5: Financial and Maintenance Constraints

The cost of implementing and maintaining BWC systems was cited by respondents as a persistent issue. One respondent remarked, "Maintaining and updating BWCs costs a lot; sometimes we don't have the budget," reflecting the financial burden on law enforcement agencies.

Recent reporting affirms this challenge. In 2024, the Philippine National Police (PNP) faced a significant shortfall, operating with just under 3,000 BWCs against a target of 40,000–45,000 units (Villeza, 2024). According to PNP spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo, the agency has struggled not only with acquiring devices but also with affording essential resources such as cloud storage, repair services, and software updates to manage data effectively.

This underscores the necessity of long-term procurement strategies and budget planning. Without consistent funding, BWC programs risk stalling, which may weaken accountability measures and public expectations of transparency.

Theme 6: Limitations in Footage Coverage

Respondents noted that BWCs may not always capture the full scope of an incident. One police officer shared, “The cameras don’t always catch the full picture or may record unnecessary footage,” pointing to both under- and over-capture scenarios. This limitation can affect the clarity of investigations, particularly when critical angles, audio cues, or movements are obscured or out of frame.

Such limitations create challenges for post-incident analysis. Without multi-angle or contextual recording, BWCs may present a skewed or incomplete narrative of the encounter. Vaughn (2023) emphasized that “BWC footage must be corroborated with other forms of evidence—such as witness testimonies or radio logs—to prevent biased interpretations of officer behavior.”

To address this, law enforcement agencies must train personnel not only in equipment usage but also in how to contextualize and interpret video data. Review protocols should be designed to integrate footage with situational accounts and procedural logs to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of field events.

Theme 7: Misinterpretation of BWC Footage

Both barangay officials and police officers raised concerns over how BWC footage might be misinterpreted. One respondent stated, “Even with footage, people might misread what’s happening if they lack context,” underscoring the dangers of jumping to conclusions based solely on video evidence.

This issue highlights a broader challenge in digital accountability: the assumption that “video equals truth.” In reality, footage lacks nuance, such as tone,

intent, and off-camera activity, which are essential for accurate interpretation. Krantz and Alvarez (2020) warn that “reviewing BWC recordings without understanding the operational context or legal framework can lead to public misjudgment and institutional discredit.”

To mitigate this, law enforcement agencies should establish review procedures that involve trained personnel capable of contextualizing footage. Interpretation should consider environmental factors, officer positioning, and timing within the operational sequence. Additionally, efforts must be made to educate the public on the limitations of BWC recordings to manage expectations and preserve trust.

Therefore, the identified seven key themes reflecting the challenges encountered by PRO3 officers in the use of BWCs are privacy concerns, inconsistent usage, limited public access to footage, over-reliance on cameras, cost and maintenance, incomplete or excessive recording, and potential misinterpretation of video evidence. These findings underscore that while BWCs offer powerful tools for accountability and transparency, their effectiveness depends on proper implementation, clear guidelines, sustained funding, and a careful balance between enforcement and ethics. Addressing these concerns holistically will ensure that BWCs serve their intended purpose—enhancing both officer performance and community trust.

3.7 Policy development to enhance the effective use of Body-Worn Cameras

The findings of this study affirm that body-worn cameras (BWCs) are effectively implemented across several critical dimensions in law enforcement,

particularly in promoting police accountability, deterring misconduct, and enhancing public trust. High levels of implementation were supported by consistent responses from police officers and barangay officials, validating the role of BWCs in ensuring transparency and procedural compliance. These outcomes are theoretically anchored in the deterrence theory, which posits that consistent monitoring influences better behavioral adherence, as well as accountability theory, which emphasizes the role of oversight tools in public administration.

Informed by empirical results and regulatory frameworks, the researcher developed a comprehensive draft policy memorandum, officially titled *"Proposed Operational Guidelines Enhancing Police Accountability, Crime Reduction, and Public Trust Through the Mandatory Use of Body-Worn Cameras and Other Alternative Recording Devices."* This proposed memorandum, included in full in the appendices, offers concrete operational mechanisms for institutionalizing BWC use within the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Key provisions of the proposed Memorandum Circular include: (a) Mandatory deployment of BWCs during warrant executions and high-risk operations; (b) Assignment of trained videographers to ensure complete and unbroken documentation; (c) Strict chain-of-custody protocols overseen by vetted Data Custodians; (d) Preservation of metadata such as timestamps and GPS data; (e) Affidavit-based justification for non-activation or use of alternative recording devices; (f) Privacy safeguards, including redaction protocols and procedures for securing consent; (g) Public access mechanisms, including Freedom of Information (FOI)-based disclosures; (h) Accountability metrics, such as a

proposed BWC Utilization Scorecard; (i) Community engagement strategies, including quarterly feedback and video transparency; and (j) Sanctions for violations, including deactivation or tampering, aligned with NAPOLCOM and criminal codes.

The policy reflects both operational insights and behavioral research, emphasizing that effective implementation requires a systems-based approach—integrating leadership supervision, secure digital infrastructure, behavioral training, and community trust-building.

Ultimately, the proposed policy seeks to elevate BWC usage from a compliance tool to a cultural norm within law enforcement. By translating study findings into actionable, research-informed policy guidelines, the author not only contributes to academic discourse but also to real-world reform initiatives aimed at strengthening public safety, institutional integrity, and democratic accountability. The full text of the *proposed draft policy* is included in the *appendices (Appendix K)* for reference and institutional consideration.

3.8 Outcome of the Study

Strengthening Police Accountability, Reducing Crime, and Building Public Trust Through the Effective Implementation of Body-Worn Cameras

Based on the empirical findings of the study, the implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) by law enforcement officers in Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) has resulted in significant improvements in police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust. The use of BWCs fostered a heightened sense of responsibility among officers, encouraging adherence to protocols and reducing

incidents of misconduct. Supervisors were also able to use the recorded footage for internal reviews and investigations, further strengthening the mechanisms for accountability. The presence of BWCs served as a deterrent not only to criminal behavior but also to the excessive use of force by police officers, resulting in fewer confrontational encounters. Additionally, the footage provided strong evidentiary support in legal proceedings, contributing to quicker case resolutions and higher conviction rates. The visibility of BWCs during police operations reassured citizens and community stakeholders, particularly barangay officials, that law enforcement actions were being monitored, which led to a noticeable increase in public trust and police-community cooperation.

While the benefits of BWC implementation were established, the study also identified several challenges, including inconsistent activation, privacy concerns, technical limitations, and resource constraints. These issues highlight the need for a systematic and well-supported policy framework to guide the effective and ethical use of BWCs in police operations. As a result, the study provides a foundation for key institutional outputs, including a proposed BWC policy and operational manual, training programs for law enforcement officers, a monitoring and evaluation system, and community engagement initiatives to raise awareness and build public support. These outcomes validate the role of BWCs as a transformative tool for enhancing police practices, supporting both operational reforms and contributing to the broader academic discourse on transparency, accountability, and trust in law enforcement in the Philippine context.

Chapter 4

Summary of Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

This chapter presents the summary of findings and conclusions derived from the study, along with the recommendations proposed by the researcher based on these findings. The study highlighted key insights into the implementation and effectiveness of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in law enforcement, particularly their impact on police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust. The recommendations were formulated to address identified challenges and to enhance the utilization of BWCs in law enforcement practices.

4.1 Summary of Findings

The salient findings of the study were as follows:

When examining the level of implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in law enforcement, specifically in terms of police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust, both police officers and barangay officials observed that BWCs were fully implemented in their respective policing activities.

Regarding police accountability, the results of the study highlighted the shared perspective between barangay officials and PNP officers. They agreed that the implementation of BWCs could determine whether officers adhered to their protocols and training, ensuring they acted within the law and with respect toward their duties and interactions with the community.

Concerning crime reduction, the study revealed a shared perspective between barangay officials and PNP officers, who both agreed that BWCs assisted

in providing concrete and reliable evidence to aid in the prosecution and charging of criminals. This contributed to increased efficiency and accuracy in serving justice and convicting offenders.

In terms of community trust, the study revealed varied perspectives between barangay officials and police officers. Police officers valued the evidentiary role of BWCs in supporting investigations and court cases, which enhanced their relationship with the community by ensuring fair and just prosecutions of criminals. On the other hand, barangay officials valued BWCs for recording police officers' interactions with citizens, ensuring their actions were documented, responsible, and aligned with proper policing protocols. Despite these differing perspectives, both groups acknowledged that BWCs were fully implemented.

When assessing whether there were significant differences in the level of implementation of BWCs between police officers and barangay officials, no significant differences were discovered. This indicated that both types of respondents shared the viewpoint that BWCs were fully implemented and recognized their value.

When evaluating the level of effectiveness of BWCs in law enforcement, specifically in terms of police accountability, crime reduction, and community trust, both police officers and barangay officials observed that BWCs were very effective in supporting their respective policing activities.

In terms of police accountability, the results of the study revealed a shared perspective between barangay officials and PNP officers. BWCs were considered

effective in ensuring officers followed the proper protocols and training they had received, which assured they acted responsibly and contributed to the safety and security of the civilian population.

Regarding crime reduction, the study showed differing perspectives between barangay officials and PNP officers. Police officers noted the effectiveness of BWCs in reducing crime, emphasizing their ability to provide recorded footage and evidence for court prosecutions. This also acted as a deterrent for potential criminals, knowing their actions would be recorded, and simplified legislative processes. Conversely, barangay officials observed the effectiveness of BWCs in deterring criminals within their communities, particularly during patrols, thereby reducing crime rates. Despite these varying perspectives, both groups agreed that BWCs were effective in reducing crime.

When considering community trust, the study again revealed differing perspectives. Barangay officials observed that civilians felt safer knowing their interactions with law enforcement were being recorded, as this reassured them that officers would not act unlawfully. PNP officers, on the other hand, valued BWCs for their ability to expose and document the unjust actions of corrupt officers, enabling their reprimand and distinguishing honest officers from unethical ones. Although their perspectives differed, both groups recognized the effectiveness of BWCs in fostering community trust.

When assessing whether there were significant differences in the level of effectiveness of BWCs between police officers and barangay officials, no significant differences were discovered. This suggested that both groups shared

the viewpoint that BWCs were very effective in supporting various policing activities.

Lastly, the study established a strong positive relationship between the level of implementation and the level of effectiveness of BWCs in law enforcement. This relationship indicated that when BWCs were fully and properly implemented, they became highly effective in supporting policing activities, such as promoting police accountability, reducing crime, and building community trust.

4.2 Conclusion

The study revealed that body-worn cameras (BWCs) are completely integrated and regarded as very effective in Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3), especially in improving police accountability, lowering crime rates, and fostering community trust. Their continued implementation reflects a solid organizational dedication to transparency and integrity. The views on the effectiveness of BWCs were uniform among all groups of respondents, regardless of age, rank, or assignment, reflecting widespread support and acceptance.

A notable positive correlation was found between the degree of implementation and perceived effectiveness, underscoring the significance of organized deployment, adequate training, and compliance with protocols. Nonetheless, various operational challenges were observed, such as technical difficulties, the absence of standardization, insufficient training, and issues related to data management. To tackle these issues, it is advisable to develop a thorough policy—one that guarantees uniform application, sets forth clear guidelines, ensures sufficient funding, enforces responsibility, and encourages community

involvement. Overall, BWCs are recognized as an essential instrument in promoting ethical, transparent, and community-focused policing.

4.3 Recommendations

With the findings and conclusions, the following are the recommendations to guarantee that body-worn cameras are implemented and utilized in a manner that is effective, ethical, and sustainable, contributing to the advancement of transparent and contemporary policing practices:

1. Enhance the comprehensive and consistent execution of BWCs.

Body-worn cameras must be utilized in all pertinent law enforcement activities to enhance transparency, accountability, and conduct standards.

2. Facilitate training for PNP personnel.

Provide continuous technical and ethical training to improve officers' proficiency in the operation of BWCs and compliance with established usage protocols.

3. Perform regular maintenance and enhancements on equipment.

Ensure the optimal performance and dependability of BWCs by resolving hardware concerns, including battery longevity, storage capacity, and device malfunctions.

4. Ensure rigorous compliance with operational protocols.

It is essential that all officers adhere to established protocols for the activation and management of BWCs during operations to ensure consistency and adherence to regulations.

5. Implement body-worn cameras throughout all police stations nationwide.

Ensure the uniform implementation of BWCs across every unit, role, and personnel, irrespective of rank or assignment, to uphold consistency and effectiveness.

6. Resolve technical and connectivity challenges.

Consider enhancing your technology and solutions to effectively address prevalent technical challenges, particularly in remote locations where signal and data transfer can be unreliable.

7. Establish standardized and secure systems for data management.

Establish comprehensive policies for the storage, access, and management of video data to safeguard privacy, mitigate the risk of data breaches, and facilitate investigations.

8. Implement accountability measures for instances of non-compliance.

Establish disciplinary procedures to address non-compliance with BWC protocols, promoting responsible usage and discouraging misconduct.

9. Ensure adequate and continuous budgetary allocation.

Allocate sufficient funds for the procurement, maintenance, repair, personnel training, and technological upgrades of body-worn camera (BWC) systems to ensure the sustained effectiveness and long-term success of BWC implementation.

10. Encourage community involvement and understanding.

Enhance public awareness and endorsement of BWC utilization through outreach initiatives that foster trust and promote collaboration between law enforcement and the community.

11. Formulate a thorough and enforceable policy regarding body-worn cameras (BWC). Create and implement a policy framework that addresses all facets of BWC usage, including activation protocols and data management, to guarantee uniformity and enhance effectiveness.

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Villeza, M. (2024). PNP to Procure 4,000 Bodycams in 2024.

Appendix A

Letter to the Dean of Graduate School

January 27, 2025

Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean, Graduate School
Philippine College of Criminology
641 Sales St., Sta Cruz, Manila

Dear Dean Vicente:

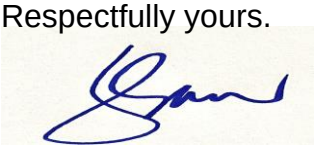
A pleasant day.

The undersigned is a student of Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology (Ph.D. Crim), Academic Track, and Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology (Ph.D. Crim), Professional Track, and is currently writing a dissertation entitled "The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment." I had my dissertation proposal defense last December 19, 2024. The members of the dissertation examination committee approved my proposal paper last January 27, 2025.

In this regard, may I ask permission from your office to commence the data gathering? Upon the approval of your office of this letter, I will write a letter to the concerned key personalities to coordinate the data gathering.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours.

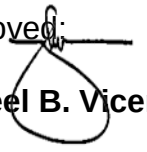


Soledad L Elefanio, DPA
Researcher

Noted by:

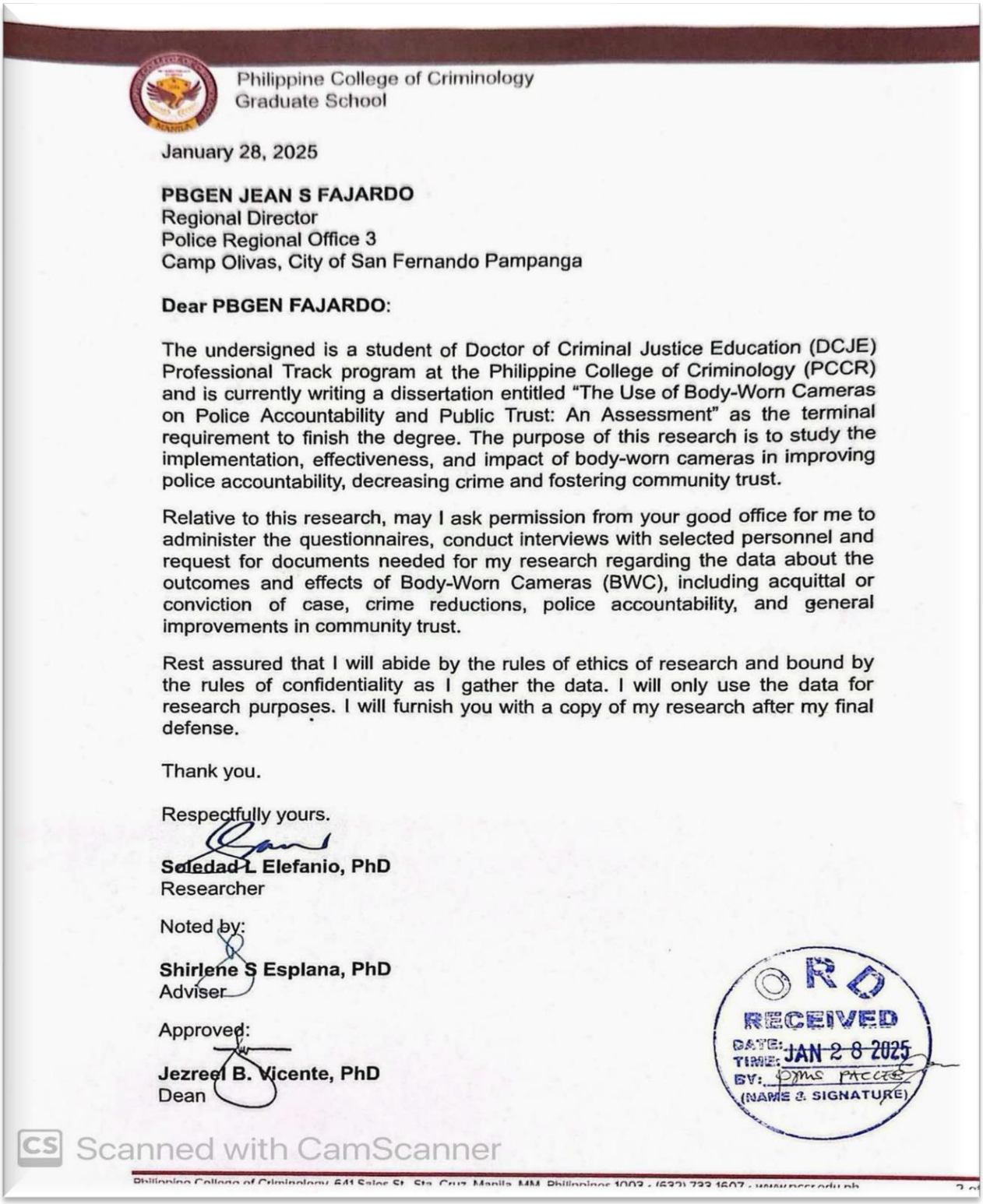
Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Adviser

Approved:



Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean

Appendix B
Letter to Regional Director, PRO3



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

January 28, 2025

PBGEN JEAN S FAJARDO
Regional Director
Police Regional Office 3
Camp Olivas, City of San Fernando Pampanga

Dear PBGEN FAJARDO:

The undersigned is a student of Doctor of Criminal Justice Education (DCJE) Professional Track program at the Philippine College of Criminology (PCCR) and is currently writing a dissertation entitled "The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment" as the terminal requirement to finish the degree. The purpose of this research is to study the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras in improving police accountability, decreasing crime and fostering community trust.

Relative to this research, may I ask permission from your good office for me to administer the questionnaires, conduct interviews with selected personnel and request for documents needed for my research regarding the data about the outcomes and effects of Body-Worn Cameras (BWC), including acquittal or conviction of case, crime reductions, police accountability, and general improvements in community trust.

Rest assured that I will abide by the rules of ethics of research and bound by the rules of confidentiality as I gather the data. I will only use the data for research purposes. I will furnish you with a copy of my research after my final defense.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours.

Soledad L. Elefanio, PhD
Researcher

Noted by:

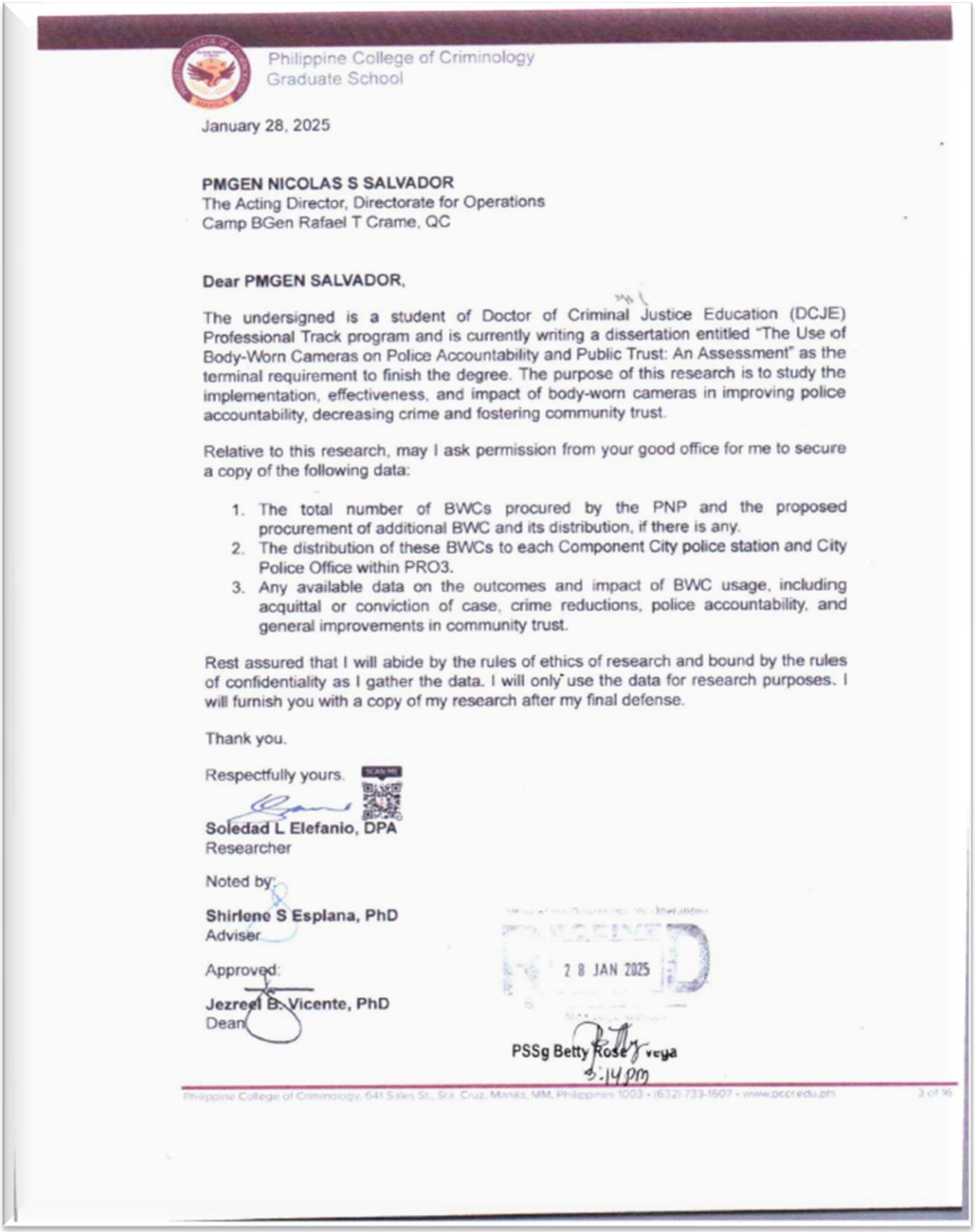
Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Adviser

Approved:

Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean

RO
RECEIVED
DATE: JAN 28 2025
TIME:
BY:
(NAME & SIGNATURE)

Appendix B
Letter to Director, Directorate for Operations



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

January 28, 2025

PMGEN NICOLAS S SALVADOR
The Acting Director, Directorate for Operations
Camp BGen Rafael T Crame, QC

Dear PMGEN SALVADOR,

The undersigned is a student of Doctor of Criminal Justice Education (DCJE) Professional Track program and is currently writing a dissertation entitled "The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment" as the terminal requirement to finish the degree. The purpose of this research is to study the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras in improving police accountability, decreasing crime and fostering community trust.

Relative to this research, may I ask permission from your good office for me to secure a copy of the following data:

1. The total number of BWCs procured by the PNP and the proposed procurement of additional BWC and its distribution, if there is any.
2. The distribution of these BWCs to each Component City police station and City Police Office within PRO3.
3. Any available data on the outcomes and impact of BWC usage, including acquittal or conviction of case, crime reductions, police accountability, and general improvements in community trust.

Rest assured that I will abide by the rules of ethics of research and bound by the rules of confidentiality as I gather the data. I will only use the data for research purposes. I will furnish you with a copy of my research after my final defense.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours.

Soledad L. Elefanio, DPA
Researcher

Noted by:

Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Adviser

Approved:

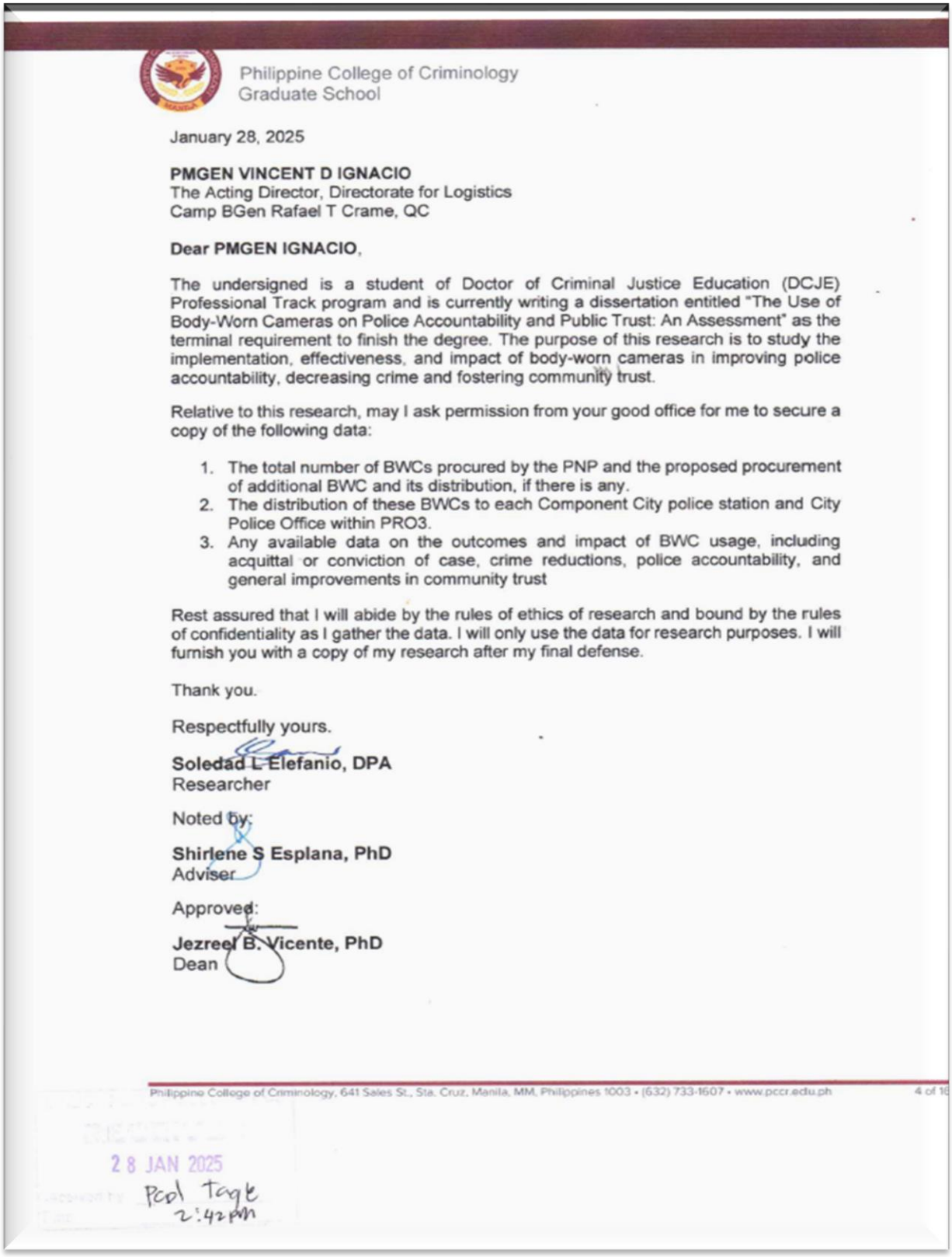
Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean

RECEIVED
28 JAN 2025

PSSg Betty Rose Vega
5:14 pm

Philippine College of Criminology, 641 Sales St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, MM, Philippines 1003 • (632) 733-1607 • www.pccr.edu.ph 3 of 16

APPENDIX B
Letter to Director, Directorate for Logistics



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

January 28, 2025

PMGEN VINCENT D IGNACIO
The Acting Director, Directorate for Logistics
Camp BGen Rafael T Crame, QC

Dear PMGEN IGNACIO,

The undersigned is a student of Doctor of Criminal Justice Education (DCJE) Professional Track program and is currently writing a dissertation entitled "The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment" as the terminal requirement to finish the degree. The purpose of this research is to study the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras in improving police accountability, decreasing crime and fostering community trust.

Relative to this research, may I ask permission from your good office for me to secure a copy of the following data:

1. The total number of BWCs procured by the PNP and the proposed procurement of additional BWC and its distribution, if there is any.
2. The distribution of these BWCs to each Component City police station and City Police Office within PRO3.
3. Any available data on the outcomes and impact of BWC usage, including acquittal or conviction of case, crime reductions, police accountability, and general improvements in community trust

Rest assured that I will abide by the rules of ethics of research and bound by the rules of confidentiality as I gather the data. I will only use the data for research purposes. I will furnish you with a copy of my research after my final defense.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours.

Soledad L Elefanio, DPA
Researcher

Noted by:

Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Adviser

Approved:

Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean

Philippine College of Criminology, 641 Sales St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, MM, Philippines 1003 • (632) 733-1607 • www.pccr.edu.ph 4 of 1

28 JAN 2025
Pcol Tayle
2:42 PM

Appendix C

Letter to Research Participants

January 27, 2025

Dear Respondent/Participants,

The undersigned is a student of the Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology (Ph.D. Crim), Academic Track (Ph.D. Crim) Professional Track program at the Philippine College of Criminology (PCCR) and is currently writing a dissertation entitled "The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment" as the terminal requirement to finish the degree. The purpose of this research is to study the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras in improving police accountability, decreasing crime, and fostering community trust.

In this regard, may I request you to answer the attached questionnaire/interview guide questions about my study? Rest assured that the data collected will be used solely for this research without compromising the confidentiality and integrity of the office/unit you represent.

You have the right to refuse to participate in this research study. Also, you have the right to withdraw the information you provided to the researcher. Should you want to withdraw, you can email the researcher at solelefanio1918@gmail.com or soledad.elefanio@my.pccr.edu.ph.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours.

Soledad L Elefanio, DPA
Researcher

Noted by:

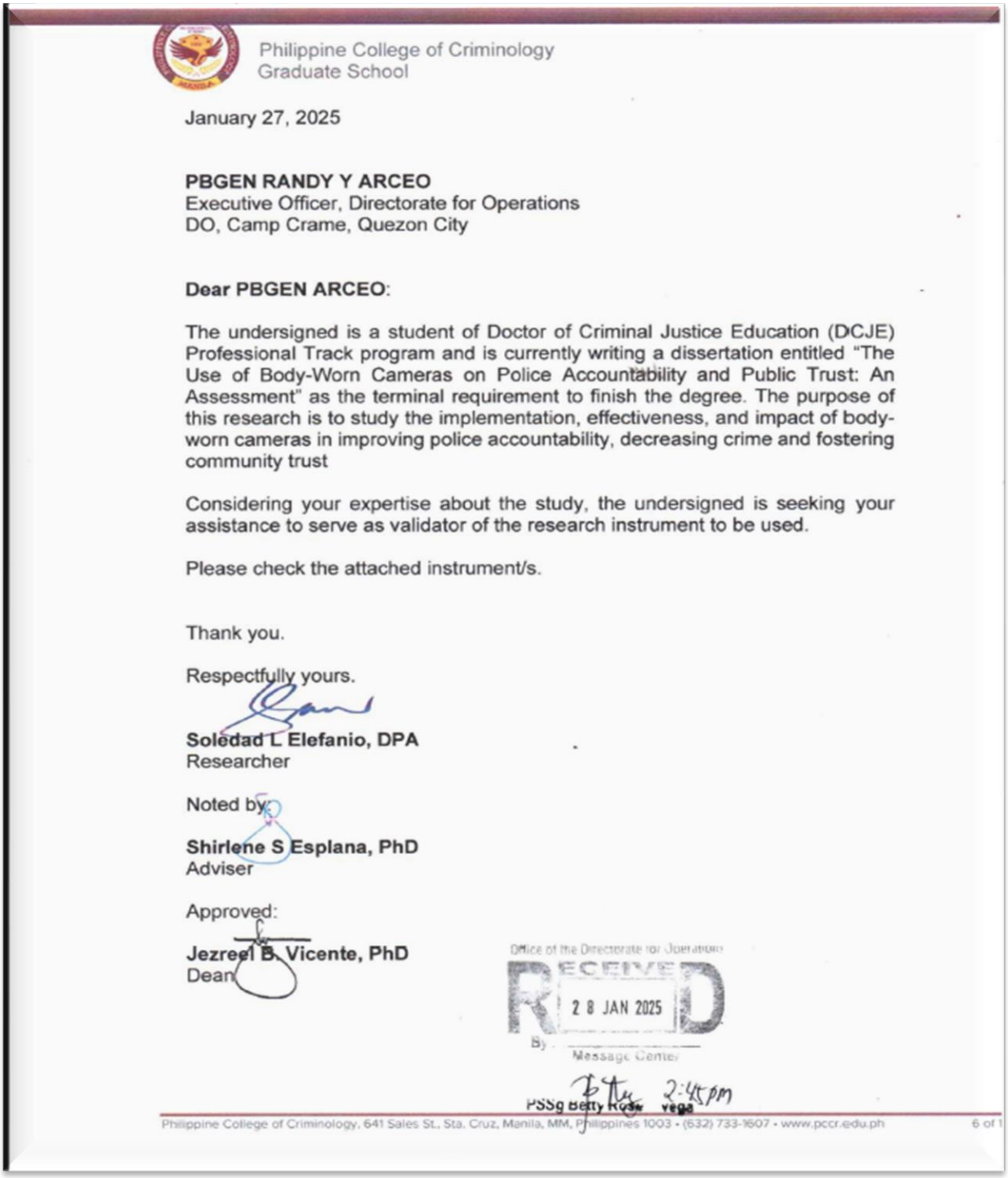
Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Adviser

Approved:

Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean

Appendix D

Letter to the Tool Validator



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

January 27, 2025

PBGEN RANDY Y ARCEO
Executive Officer, Directorate for Operations
DO, Camp Crame, Quezon City

Dear PBGEN ARCEO:

The undersigned is a student of Doctor of Criminal Justice Education (DCJE) Professional Track program and is currently writing a dissertation entitled "The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment" as the terminal requirement to finish the degree. The purpose of this research is to study the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras in improving police accountability, decreasing crime and fostering community trust

Considering your expertise about the study, the undersigned is seeking your assistance to serve as validator of the research instrument to be used.

Please check the attached instrument/s.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours.

Soledad L Elefanio, DPA
Researcher

Noted by:

Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Adviser

Approved:

Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean

Office of the Directorate for Operations
RECEIVED
28 JAN 2025
By: Message Center
PSSg Betty Rose Vega 2:45 pm

Philippine College of Criminology, 641 Sales St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, MM, Philippines 1003 • (632) 733-1607 • www.pccr.edu.ph 6 of 1

Appendix D

Letter to the Tool Validator

January 27, 2025

Dr Kerwin A Bartolome
Program Chair, PCCR GSC
641 Sales St, Sta Cruz Manila

Dear Dr Bartolome:

The undersigned is a student of Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology and is currently writing a dissertation entitled “The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment” as the terminal requirement to finish the degree. The purpose of this research is to study the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras in improving police accountability, decreasing crime, and fostering community trust.

Considering your expertise in the study, the undersigned is seeking your assistance to serve as a validator of the research instrument to be used.

Please check the attached instrument/s.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours.

Soledad L Elefanio, DPA
Researcher

Noted by:

Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Adviser

Approved:

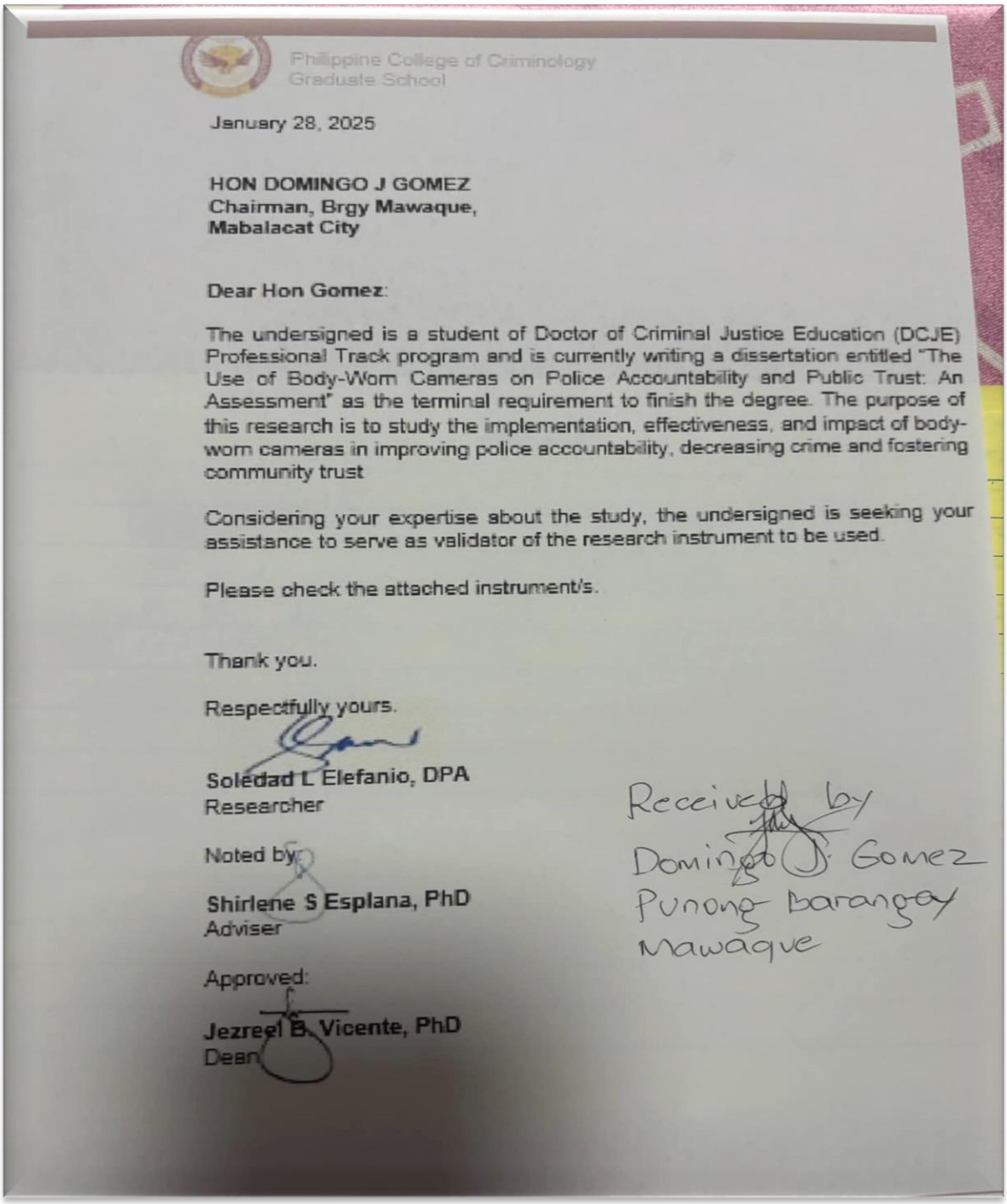
Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean

GSC Certification by the Tool Validator Inbox ×

Dr. Kerwin F. Bartolome (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com>
to me, shirlene.esplana

Appendix D

Letter to the Tool Validator



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

January 28, 2025

HON DOMINGO J GOMEZ
Chairman, Brgy Mawaque,
Mabalacat City

Dear Hon Gomez:

The undersigned is a student of Doctor of Criminal Justice Education (DCJE) Professional Track program and is currently writing a dissertation entitled "The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment" as the terminal requirement to finish the degree. The purpose of this research is to study the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras in improving police accountability, decreasing crime and fostering community trust

Considering your expertise about the study, the undersigned is seeking your assistance to serve as validator of the research instrument to be used.

Please check the attached instrument/s.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours.

Soledad L Elefanio, DPA
Researcher

Noted by:

Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Adviser

Approved:

Jezreel B. Vicente, PhD
Dean

Received by
Domingo J. Gomez
Punong Barangay
Mawaque

Appendix E

Research Instrument/s

QUESTIONNAIRE

Name (Optional): _____

Please check the group where you belong:
_____Police Officers _____Barangay Officials

Directions: Please check the column corresponding to your assessment of the indicated variables to evaluate the level of implementation and the level of effectiveness on the use of BWCs in law enforcement in terms of the following using the rating scale indicated.

Part 1.1 Level of Implementation on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement

Police Accountability	4 (FI)	3 (I)	2 (SI)	1 (NI)
1. BWCs provide an unbiased record of instances between law enforcement and the public.				
2. Police officers are more mindful of their actions and behavior because of BWCs.				
3. The recorded footage of BWCs is used to determine if officers follow protocol and training.				
4. Supervisors use BWCs to determine if officers comply with feedback and comments on their conduct.				
5. Complaints from the public are resolved much faster because of BWCs				
6. Recorded footage from BWCs can help law enforcement determine areas that need to be improved.				
7. BWCs can provide evidence of police misconduct that can be used to reprimand violating officers.				

**Legend: FI – Fully Implemented, I – Implemented, SI – Slightly Implemented, NI – Not Implemented.*

Crime Reduction	4 (FI)	3 (I)	2 (SI)	1 (NI)
1. Criminals are less likely to commit crimes in front of law enforcement because they wear BWCs.				
2. BWCs can help de-escalate a criminal act because officers and criminals are being recorded.				
3. Knowledge of BWCs will deter criminals from committing offenses.				
4. BWCs will help provide concrete and solid evidence to help prosecute and charge a criminal				
5. Civilians are less likely to commit misconduct in front of law enforcement because they wear BWCs.				
6. Officers who wear BWCs make an area more secure because of their presence.				
7. BWCs help provide officers with footage that can be reviewed to see crime patterns and prevent crime.				

**Legend: FI – Fully Implemented, I – Implemented, SI – Slightly Implemented, NI – Not Implemented.*

Community Trust	4 (FI)	3 (I)	2 (SI)	1 (NI)
1. BWCs record interactions with citizens, reassuring citizens that nothing wrong will occur between them.				
2. Officers wearing BWCs are seen as more trustworthy and less likely to commit misconduct.				
3. BWCs worn by patrolling officers help make a community more secure and safe.				
4. BWCs can be used as evidence to reprimand offending officers who cause problems in the community.				

5. BWCs can increase trust from the public, making citizens report to officers more frequently.				
6. Some BWC footage can be shown to the public to show openness and improve community trust.				
7. BWCs can record important evidence that can be used to support investigations and court cases to improve the community				
8. The public feels more relaxed and reassured knowing officers are being recorded.				

**Legend: FI – Fully Implemented, I – Implemented, SI – Slightly Implemented, NI – Not Implemented.*

Part 1.2 The Level of Effectiveness on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement

Police Accountability	**4 (VE)**	**3 (E)**	**2 (SE)**	**1 (NE)**
1. BWCs provide an unbiased record of instances between law enforcement and the public.				
2. Police officers are more mindful of their actions and behavior because of BWCs.				
3. The recorded footage of BWCs is used to determine if officers follow protocol and training.				
4. Supervisors use BWCs to determine if officers comply with feedback and comments on their conduct.				
5. Complaints from the public are resolved much faster because of BWCs				
6. Recorded footage from BWCs can help law enforcement determine areas that need to be improved.				
7. BWCs can provide evidence of police misconduct that can be used to reprimand violating officers.				

**Legend: VE – Very Effective, E – Effective, SE – Somewhat Effective, NE – Not Effective*

Crime Reduction	4 (VE)	3 (E)	2 (SE)	1 (NE)
1. Criminals are less likely to commit crimes in front of law enforcement because they wear BWCs.				
2. BWCs can help de-escalate a criminal act because officers and criminals are being recorded.				
3. Knowledge of BWCs will deter criminals from committing offenses.				
4. BWCs will help provide concrete and solid evidence to help prosecute and charge a criminal				
5. Civilians are less likely to commit misconduct in front of law enforcement because they wear BWCs.				
6. Officers who wear BWCs make an area more secure because of their presence.				
7. BWCs help provide officers with footage that can be reviewed to see crime patterns and prevent crime.				

**Legend: VE – Very Effective, E – Effective, SE – Somewhat Effective, NE – Not Effective*

Community Trust	4 (VE)	3 (E)	2 (SE)	1 (NE)
1. BWCs record interactions with citizens, reassuring citizens that nothing wrong will occur between them.				
2. Officers wearing BWCs are seen as more trustworthy and less likely to commit misconduct.				
3. BWCs worn by patrolling officers help make a community more secure and safe.				
4. BWCs can be used as evidence to reprimand offending officers who cause problems in the community.				

5. BWCs can increase trust from the public, making citizens report to officers more frequently.				
6. Some BWC footage can be shown to the public to show openness and improve community trust.				
7. BWCs can record important evidence that can be used to support investigations and court cases to improve the community				
8. The public feels more relaxed and reassured knowing officers are being recorded.				

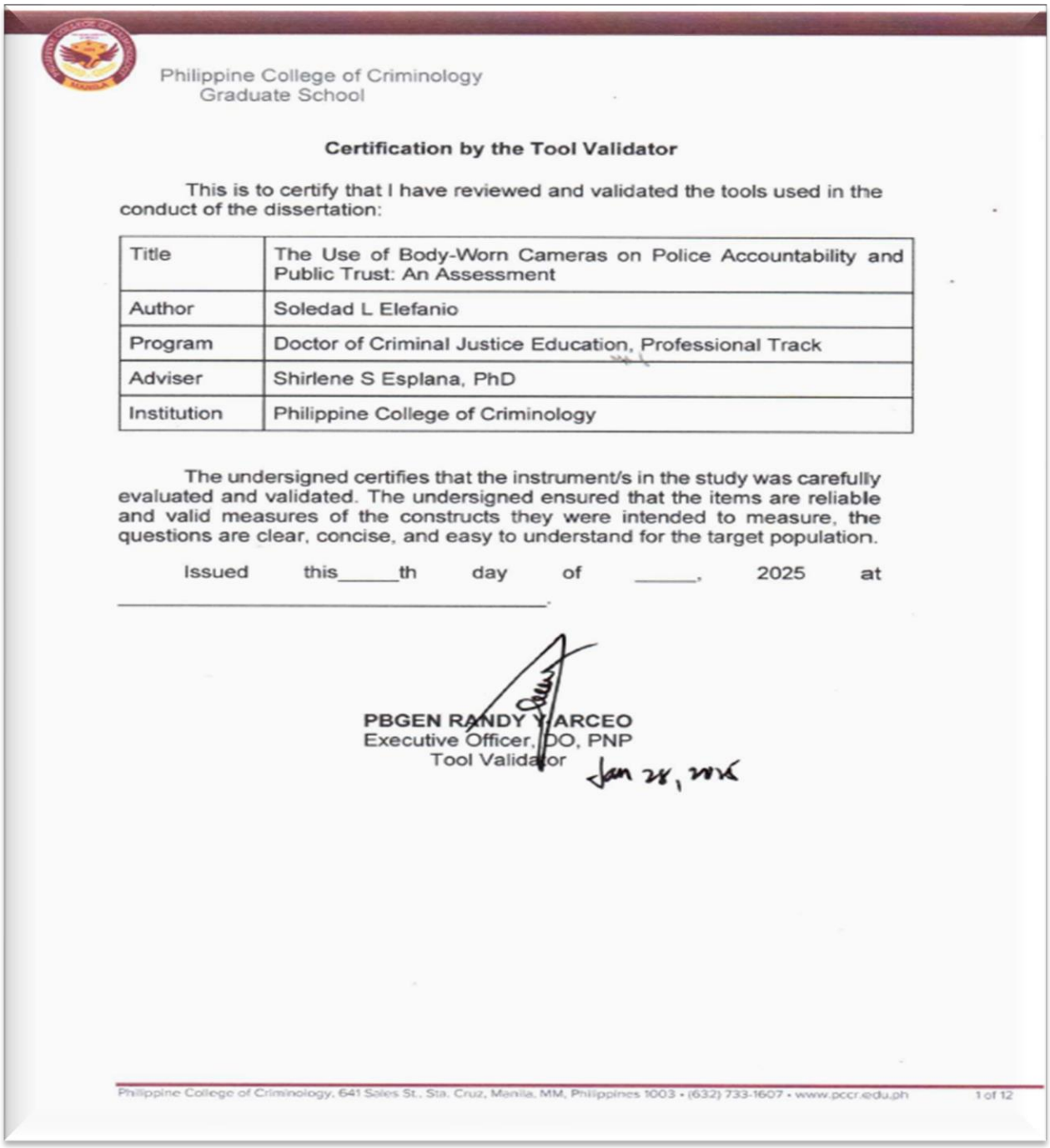
**Legend: VE – Very Effective, E – Effective, SE – Somewhat Effective, NE – Not Effective*

Part 2. Rank Challenges Encountered by the PRO3 Officers in the Use of Body-Worn Cameras During Their Law Enforcement Activities, with 1 being the LOWEST (least challenging) and 7 being the HIGHEST (most challenging).

	Challenges
	BWCs raise privacy concerns that make citizens more cautious of officers.
	Officers may be inconsistent in turning on their cameras, leading to suspicious cover-ups.
	The public may not be given access to footage that could assist them in certain situations.
	Officers may become too reliant on BWCs and neglect doing certain protocols.
	The cost of buying BWCs is too expensive, as well as maintaining and updating them.
	BWCs may not capture everything or may capture too much that it can lead to problems for law enforcement.
	Footage from BWCs may lead to misinterpretation by law enforcement.

Appendix F

Certification by the Tool Validator



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

Certification by the Tool Validator

This is to certify that I have reviewed and validated the tools used in the conduct of the dissertation:

Title	The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment
Author	Soledad L Elefanio
Program	Doctor of Criminal Justice Education, Professional Track
Adviser	Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Institution	Philippine College of Criminology

The undersigned certifies that the instrument/s in the study was carefully evaluated and validated. The undersigned ensured that the items are reliable and valid measures of the constructs they were intended to measure, the questions are clear, concise, and easy to understand for the target population.

Issued this_____th day of _____, 2025 at _____.

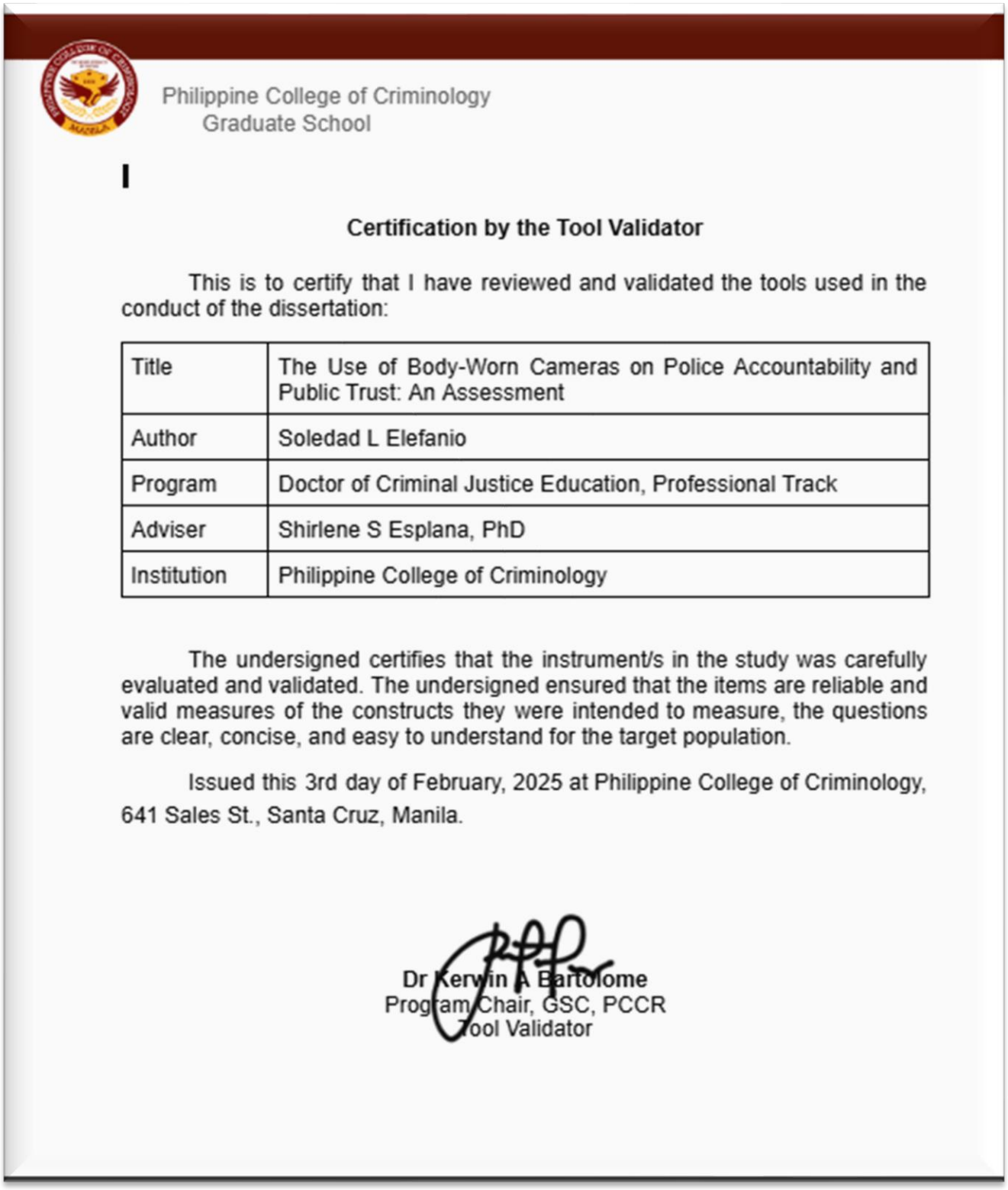
PBGEN RANDY Y. ARCEO
Executive Officer, DO, PNP
Tool Validator

Jan 28, 2025

Philippine College of Criminology, 641 Sales St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, MM, Philippines 1003 • (632) 733-1607 • www.pccr.edu.ph 1 of 12

Appendix F

Certification by the Tool Validator



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

I

Certification by the Tool Validator

This is to certify that I have reviewed and validated the tools used in the conduct of the dissertation:

Title	The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment
Author	Soledad L Elefanio
Program	Doctor of Criminal Justice Education, Professional Track
Adviser	Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Institution	Philippine College of Criminology

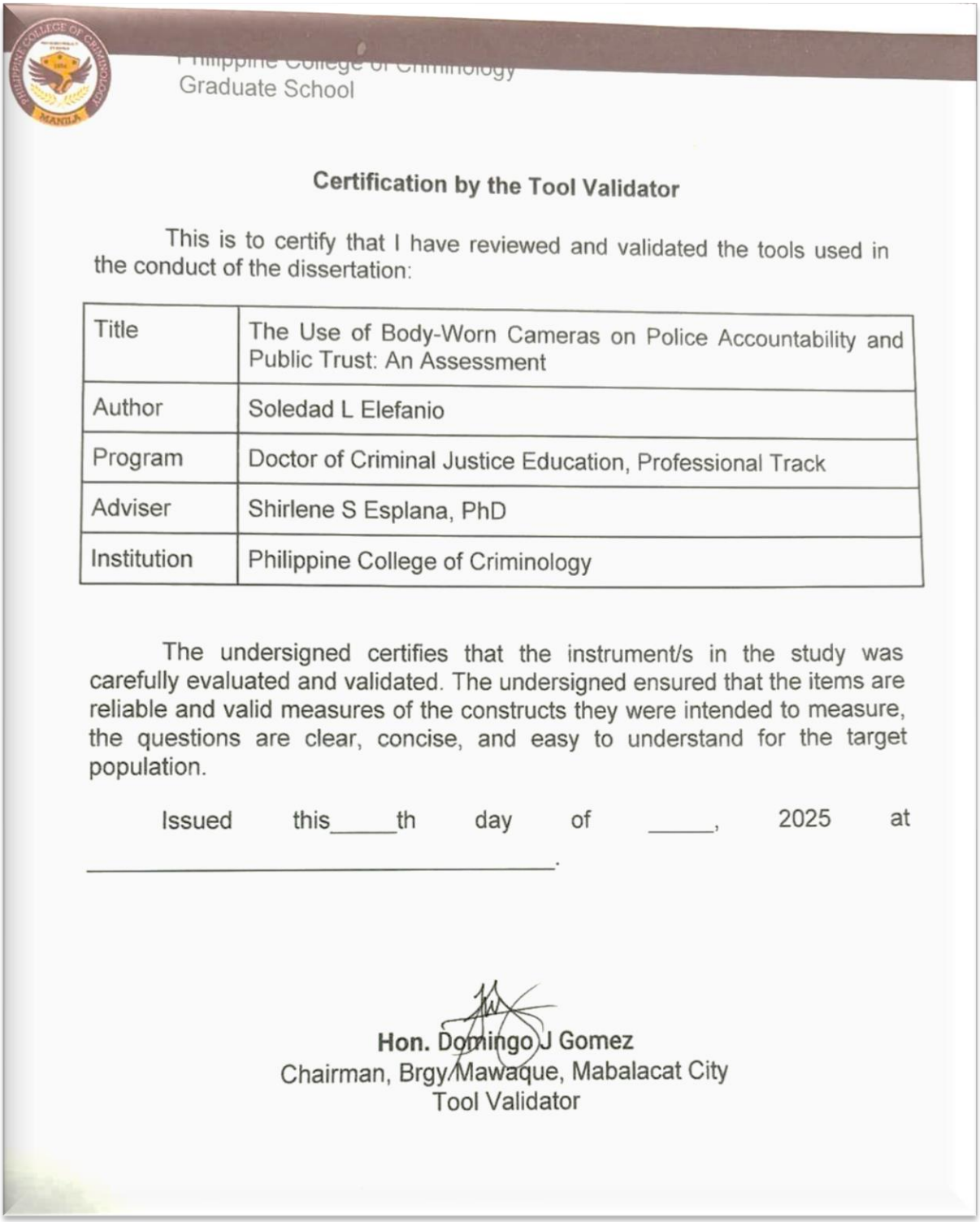
The undersigned certifies that the instrument/s in the study was carefully evaluated and validated. The undersigned ensured that the items are reliable and valid measures of the constructs they were intended to measure, the questions are clear, concise, and easy to understand for the target population.

Issued this 3rd day of February, 2025 at Philippine College of Criminology, 641 Sales St., Santa Cruz, Manila.

Dr Kerwin A Bartolome
Program Chair, GSC, PCCR
Tool Validator

Appendix F

Certification by the Tool Validator



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

Certification by the Tool Validator

This is to certify that I have reviewed and validated the tools used in the conduct of the dissertation:

Title	The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment
Author	Soledad L Elefanio
Program	Doctor of Criminal Justice Education, Professional Track
Adviser	Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Institution	Philippine College of Criminology

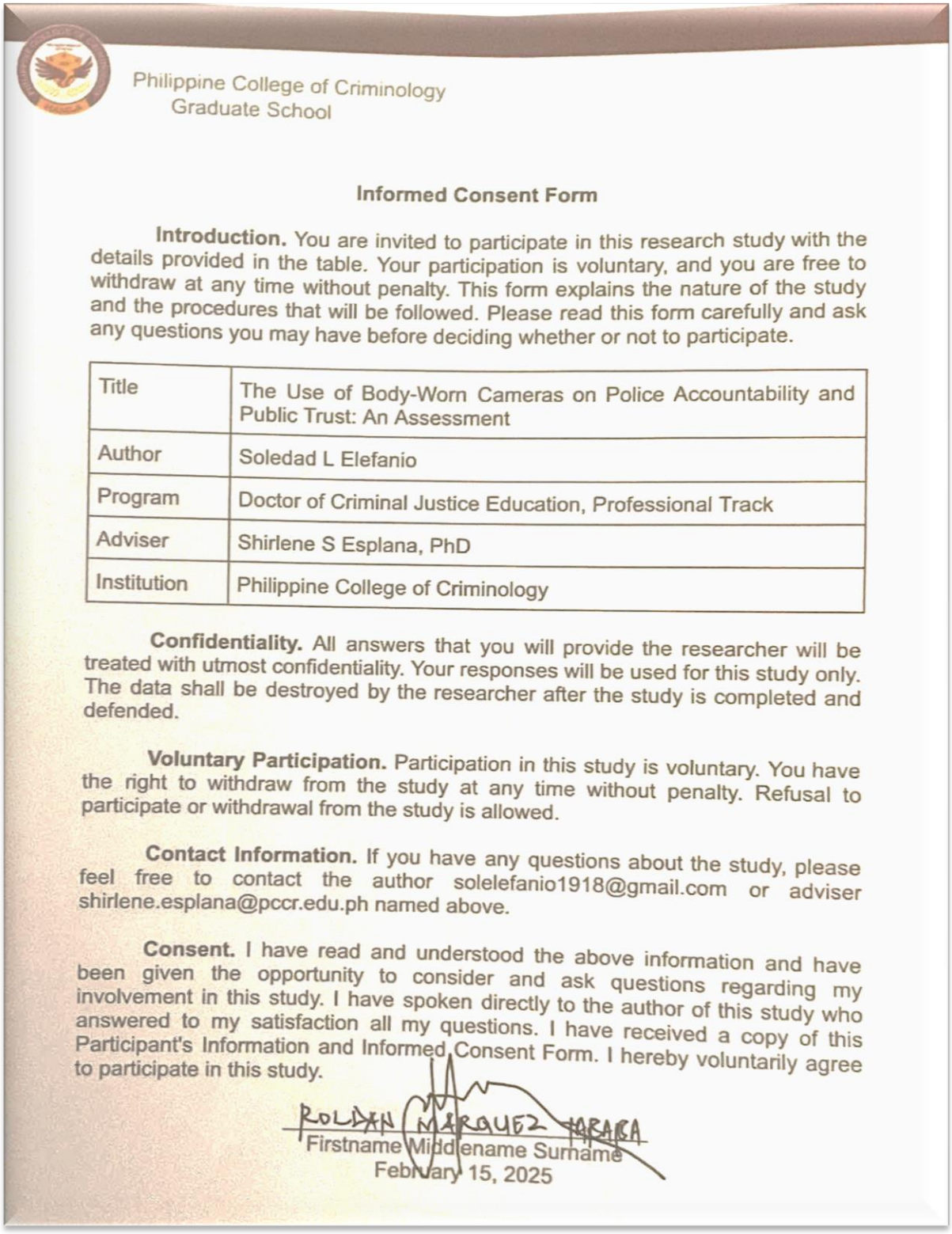
The undersigned certifies that the instrument/s in the study was carefully evaluated and validated. The undersigned ensured that the items are reliable and valid measures of the constructs they were intended to measure, the questions are clear, concise, and easy to understand for the target population.

Issued this_____th day of _____, 2025 at _____.

Hon. Domingo J Gomez
Chairman, Brgy Mawaque, Mabalacat City
Tool Validator

Appendix G

Informed Consent Form



Philippine College of Criminology
Graduate School

Informed Consent Form

Introduction. You are invited to participate in this research study with the details provided in the table. Your participation is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw at any time without penalty. This form explains the nature of the study and the procedures that will be followed. Please read this form carefully and ask any questions you may have before deciding whether or not to participate.

Title	The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment
Author	Soledad L Elefanio
Program	Doctor of Criminal Justice Education, Professional Track
Adviser	Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Institution	Philippine College of Criminology

Confidentiality. All answers that you will provide the researcher will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Your responses will be used for this study only. The data shall be destroyed by the researcher after the study is completed and defended.

Voluntary Participation. Participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty. Refusal to participate or withdrawal from the study is allowed.

Contact Information. If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact the author solelefanio1918@gmail.com or adviser shirlene.esplana@pccr.edu.ph named above.

Consent. I have read and understood the above information and have been given the opportunity to consider and ask questions regarding my involvement in this study. I have spoken directly to the author of this study who answered to my satisfaction all my questions. I have received a copy of this Participant's Information and Informed Consent Form. I hereby voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

ROLDAN MARQUEZ HARABA
Firstname Middlename Surname
February 15, 2025

Appendix H

Certification by the English Grammar Editor

This is to certify that the manuscript has been edited by the undersigned. The following issues have been corrected: grammar and syntax, spelling and word choice, punctuation, clarity and coherence, conciseness, sentence structure, style and tone, and phrasing.

Title	The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment
Author	Soledad L Elefanio
Program	Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology (Ph.D Crim), Academic Track, Professional Track
Adviser	Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Institution	Philippine College of Criminology

Issued this 6th day of June 2025 at Candon City, Ilocos Sur.

Kathryn C. Kimpay, Ed.D.
Grammar Editor, NICOSAT Colleges, Inc.

Appendix I

Certification by the Format Editor

This is to certify that the manuscript has been edited by the undersigned. The following issues have been corrected: page layout and margins, font and size, headings and subheadings, tables and figures, references and in-text citations, appendices.

Title	The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment
Author	Soledad L Elefanio
Program	Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology (Ph.D Crim), Academic Track, Professional Track
Adviser	Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Institution	Philippine College of Criminology

Issued this 6th day of June 2025 at Sta Cruz, Manila.

Kathryn C. Kimpay, Ed.D.
Editor, NICOSAT Colleges, Inc.

Appendix J

Certification by the Statistician

I hereby certify that I have reviewed and analyzed the statistical data and results presented in the dissertation:

Title	The Use of Body-Worn Cameras on Police Accountability and Public Trust: An Assessment
Author	Soledad L Elefanio
Program	Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology (Ph. D Crim), Academic Track, Professional Track
Adviser	Shirlene S Esplana, PhD
Institution	Philippine College of Criminology

In my capacity as a statistician, I have carefully examined the research design, data collection methods, sampling techniques, and statistical tools used in the study. Based on my analysis, the statistical results presented in the paper are accurate, reliable, and valid. I confirm that all statistical tables, graphs, and figures presented in the thesis are clear, concise, and appropriately labeled.

Issued this 2nd day of April, 2025 at Quezon City.

Prof Roy G Revilla
GSC Faculty, PCCr
Statistician

Appendix K

Research Photo Documentation

This photo was taken during the proposal defense

This photo shows the researcher during the data gathering. The participant's faces were concealed for confidentiality purposes

This screenshot was taken during the final oral defense.

Appendix L

Proposed Memorandum Circular on Body-Worn Camera

Reference No. __-____-_____-___

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS – PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, PNP
Camp BGen Rafael T. Crame, Quezon City

PNP MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2025–___

PROPOSED OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES ENHANCING POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY, CRIME REDUCTION, AND PUBLIC TRUST THROUGH THE MANDATORY USE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE RECORDING DEVICES

1. REFERENCES:
   a. 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Sec. 11
   b. Republic Act No. 10173 (Data Privacy Act of 2012)
   c. Republic Act No. 9995 (Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009)
   d. Supreme Court A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC – Rules on the Use of BWCs in the Execution of Warrants
   e. PNP MC No. 2024-___ – Revised Operational Guidelines on BWCs and ARDs
   f. Research Study of Soledad Elefanio (2025): "The Use of Body-Worn Cameras in Police Accountability, Crime Reduction, and Public Trust: An Assessment"
   g. Revised PNP Operational Procedures (2021)
   h. NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2023-1612 entitled, "Prescribing the Minimum
   i. Standards for Body-Worn and Dash Cameras dated November 30, 2023;
   j. PNP Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2018-038 entitled, "Implementation of the PNP People's Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual";
   k. PNP MC No. 2018-009 entitled, "Operational Guidelines and Policies on the
   l. Use of Body-Worn Camera" dated March 15, 2018;
   m. PNP MC No. 2017-021 entitled, "Enhanced Operational Concept of the Managing Police Operations" dated March 8, 2017;
   n. Revised PNP Operational Procedures dated September 2021; and
   o. DIDM Investigative Directive No. 2024-002 entitled, "Strict Observance of the Proper Chain of Custody of Recorded Data from Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) and Alternative Recording Devices (ARDs) used in Arrest and Search dated March 6, 2024

2. RATIONALE:

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warrantless arrests/searches and to institutionalize a research-based, legally compliant, and performance-driven BWC framework, aligned with Supreme Court directives and internal reforms of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

3. SITUATION

The use of Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) in police operations has emerged as a critical tool for ensuring accountability, enhancing evidentiary integrity, and restoring public trust. Further, these BWCs, play a crucial role in furnishing concrete evidence for investigations and legal proceedings, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of law enforcement activities.

Despite the challenges posed by recent high-profile cases involving alleged police misconduct, including instances of human rights violations, corrupt practices, and links to the illegal drug trade, the use of BWCs represents a proactive step toward restoring public trust in the PNP. By embracing these technologies, the PNP demonstrates its commitment to openness and accountability, fostering a culture of transparency that is essential for building stronger community-police relations

The study of Elefanio (2025), highlights empirical findings that BWC usage significantly reduces incidents of police misconduct, deters crime, and fosters greater community confidence in law enforcement.

4. PURPOSE:

The policies and guidelines prescribed in this MC shall strengthen police accountability mechanisms by facilitating the real-time documentation of law enforcement activities, thereby preventing the unlawful use of force and malfeasance during operations. The strategic deployment of proactive surveillance measures is also intended to bolster crime prevention efforts. The policy aims to increase trust in law enforcement institutions by guaranteeing that police conduct is transparent and documented. Furthermore, it is intended to ensure that operational procedures are consistent with constitutional and jurisprudential requirements regarding the preservation of human rights and the right to privacy.

5. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Alternative Recording Device (ARD) - was an electronic camera system which was not a BWC, that was capable of creating, generating, sending, receiving, storing, displaying, and processing audio-visual recordings, and might be worn during law enforcement operations. It might be used as a substitute for BWC in case of unavailability. To be used as a functional equivalent, it had to comply with the minimum standard specifications under A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC. (1) Video resolution: 720p or higher; (2) Frame rate: 30 frames per second; (3) Audio: Built-in; (4) Data and time stamping: Built-in; (5) GPS: Built-in; (6) Battery life: 8 hours continuous; (7) Storage: Capable of storing eight hours continuous audio-

video footage; and (8) Low-light recording: With night mode built in, a low lux rating, and/or an infrared (IR) illuminator

Assessment - in the context of BWCs assessment was the methodical evaluation of the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) in law enforcement. This entailed the examination of a variety of factors, including transparency, accountability, public trust, officer behavior, and privacy concerns. In order to quantify the impact of BWCs on police-citizen encounters and overall policing practices, researchers employed a variety of methodologies, such as surveys, interviews, observational studies, and data analysis.

Barangay Officials – is a duly elected or appointed local government leader—such as the Barangay Captain and Barangay Councilor—who serves as a key partner in maintaining peace and order at the community level. They assist the PNP in implementing laws, reporting crimes, and carrying out crime prevention and public safety programs. Barangay officials also help mobilize support for community policing initiatives like the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs), making them essential in strengthening grassroots law enforcement and promoting a safe and secure environment.

Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) - was an electronic camera system for creating, generating, sending, receiving, storing, displaying, and processing audio-visual recordings that had to be worn by the PNP personnel during law enforcement operations.

BWC Computer Device - referred to the BWC software including its designated computer station, storage media, server, and its peripherals used to operate and manage the BWC data recordings.

Capture - referred to procedures that resulted in the storage of a record in a record-keeping system, including the registration and classification of the record and the addition of metadata about the record.

Data Custodian - referred to a vetted PNP personnel under the office/unit/station implementing the arrest or search warrant, who had the sole responsibility of downloading, redacting, storing and safekeeping data recorded from BWCs/ARDs.

Data Repository – referred to the designated area wherein all archived video footage was stored/kept.

Digital Multimedia Evidence (DME) – consisted of all digital recordings, to include but not limited to audio, video, and their associated metadata.

Disposition - included decision making regarding any of the following actions: transfer of records which had not reached the end of their retention periods

to a records storage facility, transfer permanent records which had historical value to an archival institution, or disposal of temporary records after the expiration of their retention periods

Document - referred to information or data fixed in some medium, which did not contain or constitute evidence of an official transaction.

Ex-Parte Motion - referred to legal proceeding or communication that was a request made to a court without notifying the other party involved in the case.

External Media Storage Device - was a portable device that could be connected to an Information System, such as a computer or network to provide data storage.

Impact - referred to the various effects and outcomes that resulted from the implementation of policies, practices, technologies, or events.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) Device - This covered the hardware (computer, mobile phone, digital camera, sound/video recorder, etc.), software, protocols, digital storage and communication media used by the device, as a system.

Law Enforcement Officer - refers to the PNP personnel authorized by law to conduct law enforcement and special police operations, including but not limited to preventing, investigating, apprehending, or detaining individuals suspected or convicted of offenses punishable under Philippine laws, and other similar police and law enforcement activities.

Metadata - This included any digital identifiers that were captured as part of the actual recording, such as date/time, GPS coordinates, labeling, etc.

Operationalization - referred to the process of translating abstract or broad law enforcement concepts into specific, actionable strategies, procedures, or tactics that could be effectively implemented by law enforcement agencies.

Police Accountability - referred to the mechanisms, policies, and practices designed to ensure that police officers and law enforcement agencies were held responsible for their actions and conduct.

Public Trust - referred to the confidence and belief that the community had in the integrity, competence, and reliability of an institution or individual. In the context of public institutions like law enforcement, government, or healthcare, public trust was crucial for effective functioning and cooperation.

Real-Time Monitoring System - Real-time monitoring of BWC that enabled the command center and supervisors to monitor, communicate and

supervise field personnel/teams in real-time in the command center or while on the go on mobile devices such as phones or tablets, providing complete flexibility for the PNP to monitor, guard and provide real-time supervision and guidance of personnel/teams within their AOR.

Recording - referred to digital material generated as a result of using BWCs/ARDs, which contained images and audio-video footage. It included copies of the material created by way of copying to portable media storage and other data repositories.

Redaction - was an act or instance of selecting or adapting (as by obscuring or removing sensitive information) for publication or release.

Unredacted - referred to images visible, not removed or hidden.

Videographer - was a PNP personnel who used BWC/ARD to capture, record, and video police operations and activities.

6. GENERAL GUIDELINES:
   A. Deployment and Usage

      1) BWCs shall be mandatory in the execution of all search and arrest warrants and in high-risk warrantless arrests.

      2) Each operation must assign at least two trained videographers with operational BWCs.

      3) Activation of BWCs must begin prior to arrival at the target area and must continue until the operation has concluded and the arrestee is transported or the search completed.

   B. Data Integrity and Chain of Custody

      1) A vetted Data Custodian must download, redact, store, and submit footage to the court within 24 hours of the operation.

      2) The metadata, including timestamp and GPS, must be preserved.

      3) Any interruptions, malfunctions, or use of ARDs in lieu of BWCs must be explained in a notarized Affidavit of Justification submitted to the issuing court.

   C. Privacy and Consent

      1) Notification of BWC use must be made to persons involved, unless operationally dangerous.

2) Consent for use in court shall be secured in presence of counsel; if declined, footage may not be used against the individual, but may still be used for internal or prosecutorial review.

3) Redaction of minors, victims of sexual violence, and privileged communications is mandatory.

D. Public Trust and Transparency

1) Footage from incidents involving loss of life or use of deadly force shall be treated as public record and may be disclosed upon request via the PNP's FOI protocol.
2) Quarterly community feedback surveys and video disclosures (with redactions) may be conducted to build community confidence.

7. RESEARCH-INFORMED ENHANCEMENTS

1) Units with higher BWC compliance show lower misconduct complaints.

2) Officers demonstrate greater adherence to protocol when aware of being recorded.

3) Public perception of fairness and professionalism increases in areas with active BWC use.

4) BWC footage significantly contributes to the speed and accuracy of investigations.

5) A BWC Utilization Scorecard shall be developed to monitor compliance across units.

6) Non-use, intentional deactivation, or data tampering shall be treated as a serious offense subject to administrative and criminal sanctions.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES:

1) DO (Directorate for Operations): Overall implementation, policy updates, training.

2) DIDM & IAS: Compliance auditing and investigation of violations.

Reference No. __-____-_____-___

1) DO (Directorate for Operations): Overall implementation, policy updates,
training.

2) DIDM & IAS: Compliance auditing and investigation of violations.

3) DICTM: System integration, metadata security, and digital storage.

4) DHRDD: Training program based on behavioral regulation research.

5) PROs/NSUs: Field supervision and community engagement initiatives.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS:

Violations of this Circular—including tampering, non-use without justification, or unauthorized data disclosure—shall result in administrative charges per NAPOLCOM MC 2016-002 and applicable criminal laws.

10. EFFECTIVITY:

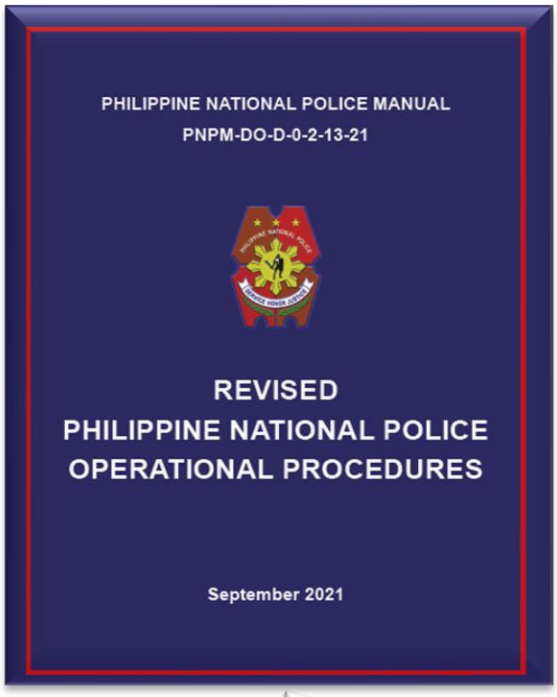
This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication and filing with the UP Law Center, and its full implementation shall be ensured by all PNP units and regional offices.

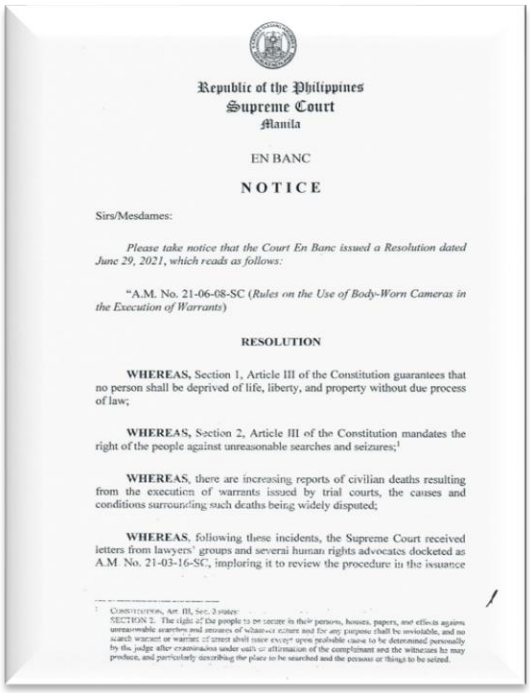
Issued this __ day of _____, 2025.

NICOLAS D TORRE III
Police General
Chief, Philippine National Police

Appendix M

Revised PNP Operational Procedure




Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

NOTICE

Sirs/Mesdames:

Please take notice that the Court En Banc issued a Resolution dated June 29, 2021, which reads as follows:

"A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC (*Rules on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras in the Execution of Warrants*)

RESOLUTION

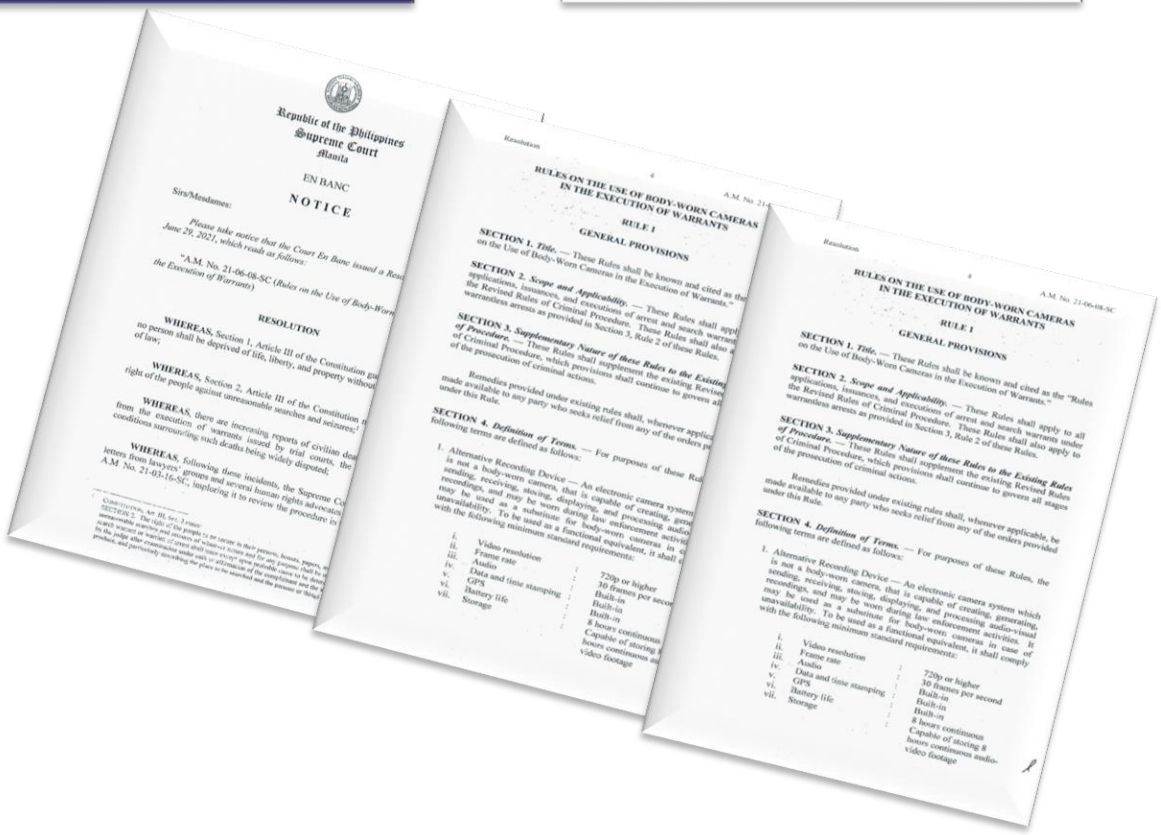
WHEREAS, Section 1, Article III of the Constitution guarantees that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, and property without due process of law;

WHEREAS, Section 2, Article III of the Constitution mandates the right of the people against unreasonable searches and seizures;[1]

WHEREAS, there are increasing reports of civilian deaths resulting from the execution of warrants issued by trial courts, the causes and conditions surrounding such deaths being widely disputed;

WHEREAS, following these incidents, the Supreme Court received letters from lawyers' groups and several human rights advocates docketed as A.M. No. 21-03-16-SC, imploring it to review the procedure in the issuance

[1] CONSTITUTION, Art. III, Sec. 2 states:
SECTION 2. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.



Appendix N

RELIABILITY ANALYSIS RESULTS

RELIABILITY ANALYSIS ON VARIOUS FACTORS Using Cronbach Alpha

Factors	*K (No. of items)*	Cronbach *A*	*Interpretation*
A. Level of Implementation on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement			
Police Accountability	7	0.945	Very Reliable
Crime Reduction	7	0.969	Very Reliable
Community Trust	8	0.952	Very Reliable
B. Level of Effectiveness on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement			
Police Accountability	7	0.987	Very Reliable
Crime Reduction	7	0.981	Very Reliable
Community Trust	8	0.958	Very Reliable

Roy G. Revilla
Research Consultant and Statistician

Appendix O

VALIDITY ANALYSIS RESULTS

VALIDITY ANALYSIS ON VARIOUS FACTORS Using Aiken's V

Factors	*K (No. of items)*	Aiken's V Coefficient	*Interpretation*
A. Level of Implementation on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement			
Police Accountability	7	0.8095	Valid
Crime Reduction	7	0.7460	Acceptable
Community Trust	8	0.7222	Acceptable
B. Level of Effectiveness on The Use of BWCs in Law Enforcement			
Police Accountability	7	0.7778	Acceptable
Crime Reduction	7	0.7000	Acceptable
Community Trust	8	0.7000	Acceptable

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