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**Effectiveness of Police Officer Body Camera Initiatives**

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### **Effectiveness of Police Officer Body Camera Initiatives**

In the course of the most recent decade, police power divisions across the United States have gone under expanding pressure from the general population, the media, social equality organizations, and government officials to build the responsibility of their officials and departmental straightforwardness, especially in regards to the utilization of power. Large numbers of the country's law implementation organizations have either embraced or started to investigate body-worn camera innovation in light of this pressing factor. The utilization of body cameras by law enforcement offices has likewise been utilized as a method of assisting with revamping trust among officials and their networks and decrease residents' complaints. Also, video film can be utilized by the police divisions to assemble proof during examinations or better guard their activities during a specific experience in light of the fact that these recordings offer vital proof during trials (Sousa et al., 2015).

Furthermore, initial interests in law enforcement agencies' body cameras stemmed from distresses about excessive force and how race factored into force encounters. On the contrary, police officers' use of body cameras does not always guarantee police leadership and accountability. However, the body camera footages from law-breaking officers on duty offer crucial evidence that can be used against them. One such encounter is the case of George Floyd, who died in police custody (Weine et al., 2020). The events on this fateful day were recorded by citizens, security cameras, and police body cameras. The footage from the police body cameras played a crucial role in the case against the police officers who conducted this heinous crime. These events took place when the race war against United States citizens and the police were already evident, and racial discrimination against people of color was gaining populism. Therefore, it is true to say that police agencies' use of body cameras ensures police accountability

and policing leadership because if they fail to uphold their oath of office, then these footages provide evidence that can be used in a court of law in their executions.

According to Scheindlin (2015) the police department's accountability is one concern whereby the use of body cameras has recorded a sizable reduction in subsequent complaints by citizens against police officers. However, he maintains that the employment of these cameras by officers does not affect whether punitive action is always taken on officers who go against the law. Moreover, the predominance of video technology on cell phones means that the police are already used to being recorded. A majority of police offenders are only suspended from duty for wrongdoing in the United States. Generally, it is sporadic for police officers to face prosecutions even with this body camera footage. In addition, because law enforcement agencies have the liberty of choosing whether to release body camera footages or not and also have the capacity of placing some limitations on the footages they choose to release, such kind of footages cannot be relied upon entirely because such engagements vary between jurisdictions and states. For instance, George Floyd's case, the police department in the town of Minneapolis released the footage of the fatal encounter, which was profoundly detached.

Lastly, despite some inconsistencies in the use of body cameras amongst police officers, they are still an effective instrument for law enforcement agencies' transparency and reforms when used appropriately, thus ensuring accountability and policing leadership. Video footages from these cameras offer essential prospects for police units to train their constables. Therefore, high-ranking officers should frequently monitor video footage to understand how their juniors operate in the field, thus improving policing leadership and accountability. Similarly, at the national level, legislators should institute more precise principles for agencies whereas also

providing them with the opportunity to decide how to employ body cameras for communities' best interests.

## References

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