

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Statements from Frey, Arradondo, and Council Members on Milestone in Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) Body Camera Policy**

*Officer compliance with the MPD body camera policy has reached 90 percent for the fourth quarter of 2018, a milestone for the department; Effective this month the department has begun a “Mandatory Mentoring” program for the small minority of officers who have struggled to comply with the policy*

*The rate of compliance marks a significant improvement from one year ago; Compliance was as low as 55 percent in February 2018 prior to the policy overhaul from Frey and Arradondo*

MINNEAPOLIS – Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, Police Chief Medaria Arradondo, Council Member Alondra Cano, and Council Member Linea Palmisano released the following statements reacting to the news that officer compliance with the Minneapolis Police Department’s new body camera policy has reached 90 percent:

**“Last spring, we pledged that a stronger, clearer, and more precise body camera policy would produce results, and the new policy has delivered on that commitment with compliance increasing each of the last three quarters,”**Frey said. **“Chief Arradondo and I will continue working with the MPD to ensure compliance with this important policy while focusing on improving police-community relations.”**

**“As Chief I’m pleased at the recent 90 percent body worn camera compliance,”** said Arradondo. **“In a relatively short time the men and women of the MPD have embraced a new technology that both aides them in their duties and can provide another lens of transparency to those we serve.”**

**“As Chair of our City’s Public Safety Committee, I am proud of our police officers for demonstrating their commitment and professionalism to improving their work by hitting this high mark,”** said Cano. **“We want to keep it there and push forward because full compliance with our City’s body camera policy is a clear and vital tool for police reform that leads to improving police-community relations. I will continue to work in strong partnership with our Mayor, our Chief, and our Council to achieve 100% compliance with our officers.”**

**“It is encouraging to see MPD leadership identifying barriers to achieve 100% activation compliance and even more encouraging that they are addressing those barriers through mentoring and restructuring their training,”** said Palmisano.

Effective February 1, 2019, the department has begun a “Mandatory Mentoring” program for the small minority of officers who have struggled to comply with the policy. The officers will be subject to intensive supervision and regular reviews of body camera usage. Body camera auditors will then track the officers’ performance for the following two quarters to ensure that improvement remains consistent over time.

Mayor Frey and Chief Arradondo overhauled the body camera policy in April 2018, adding strict disciplinary consequences for non-compliance and clarifying when the body cameras must be activated.

In February 2018, before the new policy was implemented, compliance was as low as 55 percent.

Some of the new changes include:

- Discipline guided by progressive measures for failure to comply with the updated body camera policy
- Officers will be required to activate their body camera at least two city blocks away from the service location. If they are dispatched to a location less than two blocks away, they are required to activate the camera immediately.
- Measures to prevent miscategorization of body camera case numbers
- As soon as practical, officers are required to notify supervisor if a BWC is non-operational or has other issues
  - Supervisor will make determination if officer stays on call

Frey has made improving police community relations and boosting accountability in the Minneapolis Police Department a cornerstone of his administration.

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