



Sheriff Michael D. Downey  
Kankakee County Sheriff's Office  
**Body Worn Camera Report**  
**Calendar Year 2023**

The Kankakee County Sheriff's Office is made up of 53 sworn officers (Including the Sheriff, Undersheriff, 3 Chiefs, 2 Lieutenants, 5 Sergeants, 7 Corporals, and 34 Patrol Officers). We implemented the Body-Worn Cameras upon receiving the grant (first time ever using BWCs in the field) in October of 2001 as we began replacing our legacy In-Car Video vendor (Panasonic) with Getac. Each officer is now assigned their own BWC and each squad car is equipped with a Dash-Cam (ICV). Once we received/installed the BWC and ICVs, we decided to fully institute them in the live environment on or about October 1, 2021.

The body cameras have been very useful in documenting calls, making arrests, documenting accident scenes, capturing ordinance violations, victim statement's and most importantly reducing our number of substantiated officer complaints.

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

We have had a few minor issues with the GETAC cameras. Officers experienced low battery alerts at the end of their 8-hour shift which was corrected by internal programming, other issues were user/officer error (i.e., forgetting to activate, failing to assign user, or leaving in charger while on break). Other minor issues we encountered were videos uploading under different username on same shift and BWC not syncing to in-car cameras. We do have a two-officer unit beat that sometimes causes minor issues with syncing. Using the magnetic clip mount keeps the BWC in place better than the alligator plastic clip.

#### **REVIEW PROCESS**

Supervisors are instructed to randomly view their officer's body camera videos for policy compliance and training issues that should be addressed. Administrators have the right to review body camera videos any time they are investigating alleged misconduct or reports of meritorious conduct or whenever such recordings would be beneficial in reviewing an officer's performance or training exercise.

The Kankakee County Sheriff's Office provides body camera footage to the Kankakee County State's Attorney for all arrests. It is unknown as to how many videos are actually used in prosecutions and at this time the States Attorney does not keep records for such use. We had a total of 191 BWC videos and 2975 ICVs made, however.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Downey". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sheriff Michael Downey