

Resolution No. 344-2021

By Council Member Polensek

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

Urging the State of Ohio legislature to amend the Ohio Public Records Act to provide that police body camera and dashboard camera footage be released within 48 hours after review.

WHEREAS, under the Ohio Public Records Act, police body camera and dashboard camera footage are records usually considered “confidential law enforcement investigatory records” that are exempt from release to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Public Records Act further restricts disclosure of certain portions of body camera or dashboard camera footage; and

WHEREAS, in order to increase police accountability and transparency, this Council believes that state law must be amended to provide for a timeline by when body camera and dashboard camera footage be released to the public, in accordance with the necessary restrictions set forth in the law, especially in the case of footage of police use of deadly force; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That this Council urges the State of Ohio legislature to amend the Ohio Public Records Act to provide that police body camera and dashboard camera footage be released within 48 hours after review.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to Governor Mike DeWine and all members of the Ohio State legislature.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

MDP: rns
5/10/2021

