

EXHIBIT 4

From: Bush, Jeremy I (MDOC) <BushJ2@michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:59:33 PM
To: Peter Martel <PMartel@afsc.org>
Cc: Keith Barber <KBarber@legislature.mi.gov>; Mira Edmonds <edmondm@umich.edu>; Howard, Jeremy F. (MDOC) <HowardJ15@michigan.gov>; deblabelle@aol.com <deblabelle@aol.com>; Victoria Burton-Harris <burtonharrisv@washtenaw.org>; savite@washtenaw.org <savite@washtenaw.org>; Stephanie Chang <SChang@senate.michigan.gov>; Sue Shink <SShink@senate.michigan.gov>; Jeff Irwin <JIrwin@senate.michigan.gov>; The Office of Senator Santana <SenSSantana@senate.michigan.gov>; Osher, Daniel <OsherD@michigan.gov>; Cherepon, Hailey <ChereponH@michigan.gov>; AnnBollin <AnnBollin@house.mi.gov>; jenniferconlin <jenniferconlin@house.mi.gov>; Jimmie Wilson Jr. <Jimmiewilsonjr@gmail.com>; SarahLightner <SarahLightner@house.mi.gov>; KellyBreen <KellyBreen@house.mi.gov>; Kaminski, Kyle D. (MDOC) <KaminskiK@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Body Cams Active During Strip Searches at Women's Huron Valley

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bushj2@michigan.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Department and sharing your questions and concerns about the deployment of Body Worn Cameras within MDOC facilities. This new technology, which is being rolled out to all MDOC facilities, is designed to create a safer, more accountable, and more humane environment for those that live and work within the prison setting. To achieve this, cameras must be utilized throughout the facility to potentially document interactions between staff, incarcerated individuals, and anyone else who may be in the facility. This is particularly important in settings where staff or an incarcerated individual may make a claim that requires subsequent investigation.

To provide greater clarity on the operation of these cameras, Body Worn Cameras in the MDOC generally operate in a “passive” mode, which is indicated by green lights on the front of the camera. In this mode, raw data is being collected, but unless specific action is taken by approved MDOC staff to retain this data, the data is not saved as a video or audio file. It is overwritten as the camera remains in operation after roughly 18 hours.

A video file is only created and retained if staff activate the camera due to a “qualifying event” under policy, staff determine that a camera should have been activated due to a qualifying event, but was not, or the incarcerated individual submits a request that video be retained prior to being overwritten due to an alleged violation of MDOC policy, grievance, PREA complaint, etc. In the case of an intentional activation due to a qualifying event, a

video file is automatically created and saved in the MDOC's secure evidence cloud. An activated camera generally shows red lights.

If a camera is not intentionally activated, but a video file must be created and retained for the latter two scenarios, approved staff (not the camera wearer), may extract a video file to be placed in the secure evidence cloud. Only in those three scenarios is a video file created and retained that can be viewed by authorized staff for the sake of carrying out assigned job duties. This must be completed prior to the camera overwriting the data after roughly 18 hours of use. Once that time has elapsed, the data is permanently lost and cannot be saved or viewed as a video. The video system includes video redaction tools, such as blurring or blocking of images that may need to be retained to respond to a grievance, support a criminal prosecution, etc. Any video that is inadvertently created, such as an employee accidentally activating their camera when a qualifying event has not occurred, can be deleted by the Body Worn Camera manager or their designee.

A routine strip search is not a qualifying event, meaning the camera is in a passive data collection mode that would not result in a video file being created or retained unless a separate qualifying event occurred during the search or the individual being searched provided timely notice that they were requesting a video file be retained because they believed MDOC staff had violated policy during the search. This is particularly important, as Prison Rape Elimination Act complaints may occur during these searches. The Department has worked to create a specialized PREA investigation unit and having access to video documentation when a claim is made will allow for a thorough investigation of the claim.

While we recognize this is a new technology within the MDOC and there are likely to be questions or concerns as staff and incarcerated individuals adjust to their presence, Michigan's deployment and use of these cameras in this setting is consistent with other neighboring states and complies with applicable state law.

Thank you,

Jeremy Bush
Correctional Facilities Administration Deputy Director
Michigan Department of Corrections