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## Examining Crime Reporting Behaviors in the Presence of Body-Worn Cameras

Tanya Dudinskaya

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EXAMINING CRIME REPORTING BEHAVIORS IN THE PRESENCE OF BODY-WORN  
CAMERAS

By

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Bachelor of Arts – Criminal Justice  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
2018

A thesis project submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the

Master of Arts – Criminal Justice

Department of Criminal Justice  
Greenspun College of Urban Affairs  
The Graduate College

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## **Thesis Approval**

The Graduate College  
The University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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This thesis prepared by

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entitled

Examining Crime Reporting Behaviors in the Presence of Body-Worn Cameras

is approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

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## ABSTRACT

This research study was designed to gain a better understanding of the potential impacts a body-worn camera can have on a witness reporting a crime to an officer. This study uses an online survey distributed through Qualtrics and asks participants to respond with their likelihood of reporting the crime they are prompted (such as property damage, DUI, drug sale, assault, and robbery) in the presence or absence of a body-camera, and the recording of their statement. The main concept that is being examined is whether there are potential negative consequences of body-cameras such as preventing witnesses from coming forward because they do not want to be recorded. Participants are also asked about their opinions on police legitimacy, police effectiveness, and privacy concerns regarding body-worn cameras. The study consists of 323 respondents, and this sample is gained from Mechanical Turk.

## DEDICATION

This thesis, my bachelor's degree, along with the pursuit of my master's degree is dedicated to my mother, my aunt, and my husband.

I want to thank my mother, Oksana Dudinskaya, for instilling the true value of hard work and dedication in me, as well as the importance of attending university and earning my degrees. Without your constant reminders to do better and achieve more, I would not have become the person I am, and I would not have accomplished what I have today. I want to thank you for all of the sacrifices you have made so that I could pursue a higher education, and always putting me first.

To my aunt, Juliya Morozova, I cannot thank you enough for being the sister I never had. I know I could not have made it this far without your advice and I am lucky to have someone that I can speak to, free of judgement. Although our family is small, the three of us have grown so close in the last several years. For that I am forever grateful, and I would not want it any other way.

Lastly, I want to thank my husband, David Miller. I am so thankful for your patience and support while I pursue my degrees. I am fortunate that you are so understanding of my goals, and you are there every step of the way to help me achieve them. I couldn't ask for a better life partner. I owe this, as well as any future accomplishments to the three of you. Thank you.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW, AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In the last several years, police have drastically increased the use of body-worn cameras in the United States. These devices are designed to record officers' interactions and communications with members of the public, as well as their activities and any possible misconduct. Body-worn cameras come with several benefits such as increases in transparency between officer/citizen interactions, potential reductions in use of force, and the ability to record interactions with victims and witnesses. There are, however, some major concerns with these devices such as the monetary costs of implementing this technology, the possible hesitation of victims or witnesses in providing information to police with these devices present, and most notably, privacy issues. In turn, because they have become increasingly popular, there has been new research that tested public support and opposition to these devices as well as officer's perceptions of these devices. Research has found that there are privacy concerns when it comes to recording victims and even suspects of crimes, however potential witnesses of crime have not been thoughtfully considered. Efforts must be made to ask whether potential witnesses are concerned about their privacy when coming forward to police who are equipped with a body-worn camera, and if these devices have any impact on crime reporting behaviors by potential witnesses. These questions are important to ask because witnesses serve a large purpose in the criminal justice system by providing statements and reporting when a crime has occurred, in addition to their testimony serving as powerful evidence in court.

Examining these issues through explanatory research can contribute to previous literature on the privacy issues that stem from body-worn cameras. This can potentially reveal reluctance on the part of witnesses to report crimes, or alternatively, potentially no reluctance at all. This

issue is important to study because not only are witnesses of crime often overlooked in criminal justice research, there is limited research on body-worn cameras as a whole, and even less research on the privacy issues that stem from these devices, particularly pertaining to witnesses. Answering this question can lead to important policy implications, such as addressing and communicating how the privacy of witnesses of crimes will be insured.

The following sections will include theoretical perspectives on lack of trust in police, serving as a possible deterrent (in addition to body-worn cameras) for witnesses reporting crimes to police. A theoretical approach on privacy concerns that can stem from technology and how that pertains to body-worn cameras is also included. Subsequently, previous research and the current study are discussed along with the methods used, the findings, and discussion.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous research on body-worn cameras has primarily focused on the level of support for these devices and whether they reduce use of force. It is beneficial to discuss how these groundbreaking studies of body-worn cameras have influenced the foundation of the current study.

Previous research on the level of support for body-worn cameras has consistently shown high support by the public for police use of these devices. A study conducted by Crow, Snyder, Crichlow, and Smykla, (2017) revealed that there is consistently increased support for body-worn cameras (BWCs) among individuals who hold more positive beliefs towards police performance. Among their sample of 797 residents in two Florida counties, they found that those who reported higher privacy concerns saw reduced benefits of these devices. Residents of these two counties reported relatively little concern of privacy implications, where they found that only

11.4% of their respondents believed BWCs were an invasion of the community's privacy (Crow et. al, 2017).

Miethe, Lieberman, Heen, and Sousa (2019) examined factors that predicted body-worn camera support in different domains of police work. They found that individuals who have greater involvement in social institutions believe that body-worn cameras reduce police misconduct. Those individuals also indicated that they believed body-worn cameras provide an accurate account of events that occur in the community. Miethe et al. (2019) also found higher support for body-worn cameras in areas of police work such as crime scene investigations and routine traffic stops. In regard to privacy concerns, the authors found that respondents who believed that body-worn cameras violated the privacy of crime suspects also reported less support for these devices. Clearly, the question asked here about privacy concerns is different from the Crow et. al (2017) study, however both raise the important question of possible privacy issues with this technology. In relation to opinions of the public in this study, Sousa, Miethe and Sakiyama (2015) found that respondents generally believed that police behavior would change as a result of body-cameras, specifically behaving more respectfully with misconduct decreasing. Respondents also expressed confidence in the evidence gathering capabilities of the devices as well as accurately providing accounts of the interactions between officers and citizens (Sousa et. al, 2015).

A poll conducted by Pew Research Center asked several questions regarding the public's support for BWCs as well as police officer support. They found that 66% of police and 93% of the public favor the use of body cameras to record interactions between officers and members of the public. However, the survey found that police officers who responded in the survey see far less benefit from body-worn camera use than members of the public do. More specifically, only

about 33% stated that body cameras would make the public more likely to cooperate with them, in contrast to 60% of the public believing this. When asking the question of whether the public would be less likely to obey officers that have the devices present, 10% of the officers answered yes to this question compared to 5% of the public. These findings are important to consider when establishing the best policy practices involving body-worn cameras, taking into consideration what the officers believe will work or not work since they are the ones who will be equipped with the devices.

When considering the unique privacy issues of BWCs, Bud (2016) discusses the numerous ways in which the privacy rights of citizens can be easily violated. First, Bud (2016) explains that there is a possibility for facial recognition software adoption which, he argues, clearly extends the intended uses of body-worn cameras. He finds the mobility of the technology to be useful yet concerning—because the mobility of the body cameras is very high, it makes it difficult to obtain consent from all citizens who enter its field of view. Another major privacy issue that is brought up in this article is that officers who have the device on and recording have the ability to record inside a person’s home. Such policies raise serious privacy concerns in states who treat BWC footage as public record (though policies on where and when officers can record varies by department). Freund (2015) discusses a similar concern where she explains that the presence of a body-camera may influence decision making when deciding whether or not citizens speak with police. She argues the reason for this may be the fact the one may not know how this video data will be stored or used. This concern brings attention to the research question in this study.

Closely related to the research questions in this study, the Toronto Police Service (2016) study asked individuals if body-worn cameras would impact their willingness to speak to police

as a victim of a crime after the fact, and participants indicated that the devices would not (Lum, Stoltz, Koper, & Scherer, 2019). However, Lum et. al (2019) explain after reviewing this study that the same individuals may be less comfortable to talk to police as a victim in an “investigative or enforcement situation” (p.14). A supplemental survey study conducted by the Edmonton Police Service (2015) found that 58% of participants believed that body-worn cameras would affect victims or witnesses providing information on an incident that took place, more specifically 67% thought it would increase their willingness. Slightly over half of the respondents indicated that body cameras would have an effect on informal chats with police, however the slight majority of them believed it would decrease witnesses/victim’s willingness (Edmonton Police Service, 2015). This study greatly contributed to public perception on the possible negative consequences of body-worn cameras, however it did not directly ask the opinions of victims or witnesses of a crime.

Because body-worn camera research is fairly new, there is little to know about the potential unintended consequences of these devices. Ariel et. al (2016) sought to replicate previous studies on the effectiveness of these devices as well as their impacts on use of force, however they added assaults against officers (in the presence and absence of the device) as well. The authors collected their data from 10 randomized control trials from eight different police departments (across 6 jurisdictions), with a total of over 2 million officer hours (Ariel et. al, 2016). They found that body-cameras had no effect on police use of force, however wearing the device increased the likelihood of the officer being assaulted during a shift compared to officers who were not wearing one (22 per 1000 in control shifts and 25 per 1000 in treatment). Though this result was not found to be significant, this small effect that body-worn cameras had on assaults against officers is still noteworthy. Though the authors do not offer any firm reasonings

as to why the devices may increase assaults against officers, they urge that more attention should be paid in regards to how they are being implemented and that their findings of the risks associated with wearing these devices should be transferred to other organizations who are considering the use of body-cameras (Ariel et. al, 2016).

Ariel et. al (2016) produced a report stemming from the same RCT study as discussed above, however they focused specifically on why in some areas rates of use of force increased (with officers equipped with BWCs), while decreasing in others. The ten experimental sites that they had previously used were now sub grouped into high compliance (officers had no discretion as to when and where to use the BWCs) and no compliance (treatment integrity failure where officers used discretion despite experimental conditions) and lastly, the tests in which officers followed instruction in using discretion in treatment, but followed protocol in control (Ariel et. al, 2016). They found that when given no discretion, use of force rates were lower, however when officers did not comply with treatment protocol and used discretion (turn cameras on/off whenever they wanted) use of force rates were higher than control conditions. Contrary to their first publication above, they concluded that BWCs can reduce use of force when officer's discretion as to when to turn them on or off is minimized, and they recommend that the devices be turned on and the recording of the interaction to be announced at the early stages of interactions with the public (Ariel et. al, 2016). They also recommend that future research and tests of BWCs on use of force should follow strict adherence to experimental protocol (Ariel et. al, 2016).

Concerning crime type and reporting behavior, Tarling and Morris (2010) conducted a study on changes in crime reporting since the 1990's. They examined the 2007/2008 British Crime Survey, coupled with other international research on this topic, comparing violent crimes

and property crimes. The results of their study revealed that crime seriousness remains the most important factor when deciding to report a crime. Further, Tarling and Morris (2010) explain that reporting rates for violent crimes (assault with or without injury, wounding, etc.) have gone up and are more likely to be reported (with the exception of robbery since results revealed a slight decline in reporting) than property crimes (bicycle theft, burglary, theft from vehicle, etc.).

The results from the numerous studies presented above show that there is clear support for the use of body-cameras by the public across many areas of police work, the competency of body-worn cameras in recording interactions, and their potential for reducing use of force. Several studies also addressed some level of privacy concerns for suspects of crime and community members. However, the privacy concerns of victims and witnesses of crime must be researched and discussed further.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

One of the largest growing concerns of body-worn cameras is the potential violation of privacy of those who are present on the recordings, therefore the “Control Theory of Privacy” is discussed. This framework is important to consider when discussing potential privacy concerns that may deter a witness from reporting a crime to police. Also, two of the several primary factors that contributed to the adoption of body-worn cameras were the growing mistrust in police and the losing sense of police legitimacy. Therefore, the theoretical framework of legal cynicism is included since it is important to consider as another factor that can prevent witnesses from reporting to police.

### **Legal Cynicism**

Legal cynicism theory by Kirk and Papachristos (2011) argues that the cultural frame of legal cynicism stems from not only the structure of disadvantaged neighborhoods and poverty,

but residents' previous encounters with police. Due to their prior negative interactions with courts and the police (use of force, police not taking their reports seriously), residents lack trust in police and view them as illegitimate and ill-equipped. They argue that legal cynicism is cultural because residents of these neighborhoods who all share the same experiences communicate with one another, leading to a solidified belief of police mistrust. Further, Kirk and Papachristos (2011) explain that in disadvantaged areas, people believe that the "dominant society institutions will offer them little in the way of security, either economic or personal" (Cullen et al., 2016, p.58). As a result, residents of these disadvantaged neighborhoods do not believe that the police can help them or solve their issues, therefore they resort to taking matters (such as interpersonal conflicts) into their own hands, typically ending in violence. Kirk and Papachristo's work differ from prior research because they argue that legal cynicism is a cultural frame and it is a "lens through which individuals observe, perceive, and interpret situations" (Kirk & Papachristos, 2011, p.1192). Also, as opposed to measuring legal cynicism by indicators of social norms, Kirk and Papachristos (2011) measure it by residents' perceptions of police and the legal system.

The arguments made by Kirk and Papachristos (2011) can have the potential implication that—because these residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods already lack trust in police—witnesses may be even less likely to come forward and report crime potentially because of BWCs recording them. Also, witnesses of crime may fear that the person who is responsible for the crime that they witnessed will retaliate against them if the offender finds out about the footage of the witness coming forward to report to an officer. This is often a problem that pertains specifically to poverty-stricken neighborhoods where gangs have a strong presence.

### **Control Theory of Privacy**



Privacy is often characterized as something that can be lost, infringed upon, violated, invaded, etc. However, it is also often confused with terms such as liberty, autonomy, and solitude (Tavani, 2007). The “Control Theory of Privacy” assumes that a person has control over their privacy only if they have control about information about themselves (Fried, 1990). This theory separates privacy from both liberty and solitude and its most important insight is recognizing the role of choice that is enjoyed by an individual who has privacy (Tavani, 2007). The control theory of privacy also argues that in order to maintain privacy, an individual must have the ability to control the dissemination of information relating to them (Miller, 1971). A more specific version of this theory entails that individuals have to “determine for themselves when, how, and to what extent information about them is communicated to others.” (Westin, 1967, p. 7). Although it is reasonable to ask the questions of which kind of information a person can have control over and just how much control a person can have over all of their personal information, this theory can still relate to the issue of not gaining consent from all citizens that come in front of the BWCs. Body-cameras record everything in its range; therefore, it is unreasonable to believe that every person can give authorization for being recorded on camera going about their daily lives. This relates to the Control Theory of Privacy’s argument that individuals must have control over the circulation of their information to maintain privacy, something that cannot be achieved with the current state of BWCs. This theory also addresses the issue of how people who are recorded on BWCs have no control over where their video interviews or interactions are going to be stored, or who is going to be able to view them, serving as a possible factor in deterring witnesses’ reporting of crimes to police.

Both perspectives taken together are important to consider when researching what factors potentially impact reporting behaviors. Legal cynicism addresses the effect that lack of trust in

police and holding negative attitudes on police legitimacy can have on reporting to police officers. The Control Theory of Privacy also discusses the potential impact of privacy concerns on witnesses reporting. Both perspectives influenced the questions asked in this study as well as its purpose.

## CHAPTER 2

### CURRENT STUDY AND METHODOLOGY

#### **Current Study**

BWCs have many benefits, however there is some evidence that the public is concerned about the potential for privacy violations that can result from their recording capabilities. There is a growing body of research regarding these devices, yet very little research has examined the possible unintended consequences of their use. More work is needed on how the presence of these devices can affect victim or witness statements and what impact these devices have on the probability of crime reporting. In summary, this study examines how the presence of body-worn cameras impacts the willingness of witnesses to report their accounts to officers. I will examine this across multiple crimes to see if we can generalize this across conditions, basing on previous research which has found that individuals are more likely to report more serious crimes.

Based on previous research on body-worn cameras, the hypothesis that are tested in this study include:

*Hypothesis 1)* There will be a decrease in the likelihood of witnesses reporting crimes when a body-worn camera is present, compared to not having this device present.

*Hypothesis 2)* There will be a decrease in the likelihood of witnesses reporting crimes when a body-worn camera is recording, as opposed to not recording.

*Hypotheses 3)* People will be more likely to report more serious crimes, as opposed to less serious crimes.

#### **Sampling Design**

The population of interest in this study are U.S. residents because all residents have the potential to be crime victims or witnesses. A sample will be drawn using Amazon's Mechanical

Turk (MTurk). Mturk is an online source owned by Amazon.com that is commonly used in social science research for data collection. Previous research has found that the samples provided by Mturk are just as representative of the U.S. population as other sources, for example both gender and race of the Internet samples in the Paolacci et. al (2010) study matched the population more closely than other internet samples. Age and education matched similarly as well (Buhrmester, Kwang, & Gosling, 2011, p.5; Paolacci, Chandler, & Ipeirotis, 2010, p. 414). The sampling frame that comes from Mturk consists of their labor workforce that is spread between 190 different countries, with the majority of workers being in the U.S. and India (which make up the 500,000 respondents they provide). The study sample will be limited to U.S. residents. Also, Mturk provides an availability sample, which is defined as elements being selected on the basis of convenience (Schutt, 2014). Although convenience samples tend to be less generalizable than representative sampling methods, it is an approach commonly used in social science research. Also, Mturk's sampling frame is more representative of the U.S. population than college students, or other readily available groups. To increase the sample representation, I collected responses from 600 U.S. residents.

## **Research Design**

### *Sample*

The research design involves conducting a national survey, modeled after a design used by Heen, Lieberman, and Miethe (2017) and Miethe, Lieberman, Heen, and Sousa (2019). The participants were recruited from Mturk, directed to Qualtrics to complete the survey, and compensated \$0.50 for their participation. Their survey was distributed in one wave over an 11-day period in May of 2015 (Heen, Lieberman, & Miethe, 2017). I distributed the survey over a four-day period, specifically Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Further, there were

three waves launched per day, 50 surveys beginning at 8:00am PT, 1:00pm PT, and 6:00pm PT, collecting a total of 150 responses per day. This wave approach was used to ensure a more representative sample of people by capturing individuals who may have diverse daily routines, whether they may work or stay at home during different parts of the day. A copy of the survey questionnaire can be viewed in Appendix A.

Following a brief introduction and the consent form to the survey, respondents were asked to complete demographic questions which asked about their gender, age, race/ethnicity, political affiliation, highest level of education, income, citizenship status, and law enforcement background.

## **Measures**

### *Independent Variables*

The primary three independent variables are (1) crime type (robbery, assault, drug sale, DUI, or property damage), (2) body-worn camera presence (or absence) and (3) recording of witness statement (or not). These variables will be manipulated by presenting participants a short scenario that describes a crime taking place and the opportunity to speak to a police officer.

The first independent variable is crime type. The crimes were chosen because they are different from each other in what they entail as well as their severity. I included both violent (robbery and assault) and non-violent crimes (property damage, DUI, drug sale). The purpose of including different crimes was to test whether crime type interacted with the presence and recording by body-worn cameras to affect reporting levels. Also, by using different types of crime, I would be able to test whether they produced different reporting rates.

The second independent variable in this study is the presence of body-worn cameras. Ariel et. al (2016) define body-worn cameras as wearable/personal cameras attached to each

officer during shifts with the capability of “capturing and recording police interaction with the public (offenders, witnesses, victims), in both color video and audio” (p. 457). The operational definition of body-worn cameras in this study will follow their definition, where these devices must be worn on the uniform, clearly visible to the public (Ariel et. al, 2016). In this study, the presence of the body-camera is operationalized as an officer wearing this device. By contrast, a comparison condition where the camera is absent will mention the officer wearing a “patch.” This allows the language used in the scenarios to be consistent, with the exception of the specific manipulated object (body camera/patch).

The last main independent variable is the recording of witness statements. Participants will be informed that their statements either will or will not be recorded, by the aforementioned “body camera,” or a “notebook” for participants in the comparison condition who were told the officer was wearing a patch.

#### *Primary Dependent Variable*

The primary dependent variable in this study is the likelihood that a potential witness to a crime will come forward in reporting it. Participants were asked to respond as if they were witnesses to different crime scenarios that I presented. “Witness of crime” is defined as a person who sees or hears a crime take place, and “coming forward” defined as voluntarily approaching an officer with a witness statement. Together, the definition becomes “a person who sees or hears a crime that is willing to approach an officer with their statement.” More specifically, participants were asked “how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?” and responded by indicating they were (1) Not likely to report, (2) Somewhat likely to report, (3) Very likely to report.

#### **Crime Scenarios**

Thus, the study included five different crime scenarios (robbery, assault, drug sale, DUI, and property damage) that participants indicated their likelihood of reporting what they witnessed. In addition, each participant responded to one of the five crimes with the camera being present or absent (presented with a patch and notebook manipulation instead), and the device or notebook recording or not recording. Because this study was designed to be an experiment to test whether the presence of body-worn cameras and their recording status has any impact on reporting behavior of different crimes, every participant was randomly assigned to receive one unique crime scenario with the body camera and recording variables manipulated within it. The scenarios can be viewed in Appendix B in addition to below.

#### Scenario #1: Robbery

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see a person approach another and pull out a gun. The second person hands over some money and a watch, before the person with the gun quickly leaves. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

#### Scenario #2: Assault

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see two people fighting. One person falls to the ground, and the other person repeatedly kicks him in the side, stomach, and head then quickly leaves. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements

*will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

#### Scenario #3: Drug Sale

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see a person openly selling drugs to someone in the park. You have seen needles around and think it might be heroin. The person who sold the drugs quickly leaves. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

#### Scenario #4: DUI

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see a person drinking alcohol nearby. The person appears to be highly intoxicated. A few minutes later, the person gets into a car and quickly drives away. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

#### Scenario #5: Property Damage

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see a person start smashing windows of a park building. After damaging the building, the person quickly leaves. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking



*body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

### ***Manipulation Check***

Participants responded to several questions regarding the scenario they were presented in order to confirm that they understood what they were responding to. The first question asked participants what crime incident they read about, with the response categories being (1) Robbery, (2) Drug Deal, (3) Assault, (4) DUI, (5) Property Damage. The second questions asked whether the officer was going to record their statement or not (yes or no) and the last question asked respondents to identify the item that the officer would have used to record their statement (1) notebook or (2) body-worn camera.

### ***Privacy Concerns***

Following the manipulation check, I included a series of questions to gain respondents opinions on the potential privacy concerns of body-worn cameras. They were asked to provide their level of agreement on a 5-point Likert scale with responses ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 5 (*strongly agree*) to the following statements: “body-worn cameras recording people in public places is a privacy concern,” “body-worn cameras recording people in a private residence is a privacy concern,” “body-worn cameras are a violation of witness privacy when recording,” and “body-worn cameras are a violation of victim privacy when recording.”

### ***Police Legitimacy***

Participants were then asked to respond to statements regarding police perceptions on the same Likert scale as discussed above. These questions were drawn from a study conducted by Miethe, Heen, and Lieberman (2018). The statements included: “People’s basic rights are well

protected by police,” “the police can be trusted to make decisions that are right for your community,” “you should accept police decisions even if you think they are wrong,” “the police have the same sense of right and wrong that I do,” and “I have great respect for the police.”

### ***Police Effectiveness***

The last set of questions that were designed to gain public perceptions on police effectiveness are based on Kirk and Papachristos (2011). Participants indicated their level of agreement on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (*strongly disagree*) to 5 (*strongly agree*) to the following statements: “Police are doing a good job of preventing crime in your neighborhood,” and “police are able to maintain order on the streets and sidewalks in your neighborhood.” If respondents indicated either 1 (*strongly disagree*) or 2 (*disagree*), they were then asked their level of agreement (on the same 5-point scale) to the following statement: “I feel mistrust towards police because of this” with the following response options given: (1) Lack of respect for public, (2) Abuse of power, (3) Unable to rely on their response, (4) Other (blank text box), (5) I do not feel mistrust towards police.

## CHAPTER 3

### FINDINGS

#### **Demographics**

The initial sample consisted of 609 respondents, however, 286 participants responded incorrectly to either one or more of the manipulation check questions<sup>1</sup>. This may have been due to lack of understanding of the crime scenario they were presented or other limitations that stem from online questionnaires such loss of attention. The individuals that were dropped from the sample indicated that the officer was not recording their statement when the condition stated that the officer was recording. Also, many were dropped because they incorrectly identified the piece of equipment used to record the statement (either body-camera or notebook). The final sample consisted of 323 respondents. The majority of respondents were between the ages of 25 and 49, making up 75% of the sample. There were 201 males and 120 females, and the majority of respondents were white (75%), followed by African American (9.6%), and Hispanic/Latino (4%). Over half (53.3%) of the participants identified their political affiliation as Democrat, a fourth (24.1%) as independent, and a fifth (19.5%) as republican. Nearly half (48.6%) of the respondents earned a bachelor's degree and 40.6% of the sample identified their annual household income as being between \$30,000 and \$59,000. Only 6.5% of the sample identified as having worked in the law enforcement field. See Table 1 for the descriptive statistics of the final sample (n=323). It is also important to note that the original sample contained similarly distributed demographics as the final sample (males, Caucasians, and other items were still overrepresented). There were no significant interactions found between any of the demographic items and the likelihood of reporting.

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<sup>1</sup> A chi-square analysis indicated there was not a significant association between incorrect responses and the experimental condition participants were randomly assigned to.

**Table 1***Demographics*

Variable	Descriptive Statistics
<i>Age Range</i>	n = 323
18-24	26 (8%)
25-34	147 (45.5%)
35-49	99 (30.7%)
50-64	44 (13.6%)
65 and over	7 (2.2%)
<i>Gender</i>	n = 322
Male	201 (62.2%)
Female	120 (37.2%)
Other	1 (.3%)
<i>Race</i>	n = 321
Asian	28 (8.7%)
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1 (.3%)
Black or African American	31 (9.6%)
Caucasian	243 (75.2%)
Hispanic or Latino	13 (4.0%)
Other	5 (1.5%)
<i>Political Affiliation</i>	n = 319
Democrat	172 (53.3%)
Republican	63 (19.5%)
Independent	78 (24.1%)
Libertarian	4 (1.2%)
Other	2 (.6%)
<i>Education</i>	n = 323
Less than high school	2 (.6%)
High School/GED	36 (11.1%)
Some College	91 (28.2%)
Bachelor's Degree	157 (48.6%)
Master's Degree	31 (9.6%)
PhD/JD	6 (1.9%)
<i>Annual Household Income</i>	n = 322
Less than \$30,000	76 (23.5%)
\$30,000 - \$59,999	131 (40.6%)
\$60,000 - \$99,999	69 (21.4%)
\$100,000 or more	46 (14.2%)

<i>U.S Citizen</i>	n = 323
Yes	322 (99.7%)
No	1 (.3%)
 <i>Worked in Law Enforcement</i>	 n = 323
Yes	21 (6.5%)
No	302 (93.5%)

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## **Previous Reporting**

After the demographic questionnaire, participants were asked if they have previously reported a crime to police. One hundred thirty respondents (40.2%) indicated that they have witnessed a crime and reported it to police, 58 people (18%) replied that they did not report it to police, and 135 others (41.8%) expressed that they have not witnessed a crime take place. Those who indicated that they did report were asked to indicate whether their experiences were more positive or negative on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (*very negative*) to 5 (*very positive*). Out of the 130 of those that did report, the majority of the respondents (n=107) indicated a 3 or above on the scale. Those who reported more negative experiences (M = 2.2) were less likely to report than those who had more positive experiences (M = 2.7). There was also a significant correlation between previous reporting experiences and the likelihood of reporting [ $r(130) = .30, p < .01$ ]

## **Crime, Presence of Body-Camera, and Recording on Likelihood of Reporting**

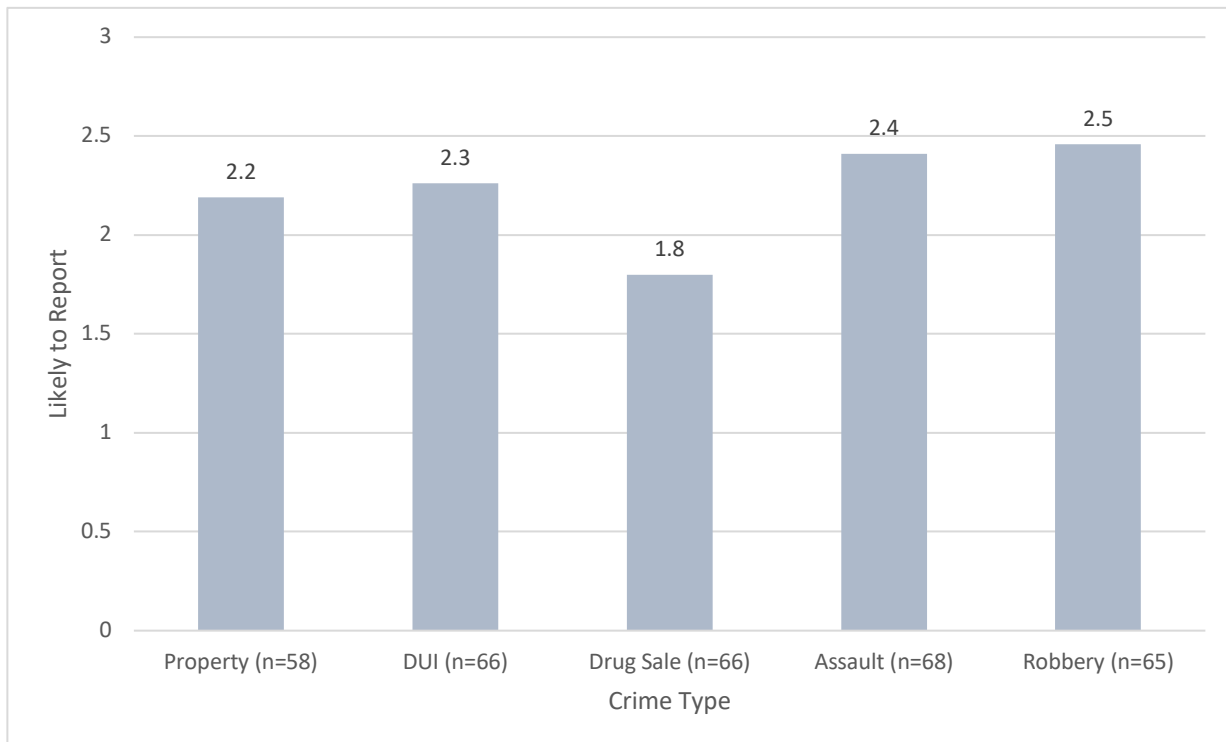
Participants were randomly assigned to one of five crime scenarios, with either an officer equipped with a body-worn camera or not, and whether the officer was recording their statement or not. A total of 163 respondents were randomly assigned to a condition with a camera present, 160 responded to a condition with no camera present (instead with a notebook), 201 respondents were randomly assigned to a scenario with the officer recording their statement, and lastly 122 responded to a scenario with no recording of their statement. More specifically, 58 participants were randomly assigned to a property crime scenario, 66 to a DUI scenario, 66 participants to a

drug sale scenario, 68 to an assault scenario, and 65 were assigned to respond to a robbery scenario.

In order to test any potential effects of the three primary independent variables (severity of crime, the presence of a body-camera, and the recording of a statement) on the dependent measure (likelihood to report), a 2 (body-camera present vs. not present) x 2 (recording vs. not recording) x 5 (crime type: property crime, DUI, drug sale, assault, robbery) ANOVA was conducted. This analysis revealed only a main effect for crime severity  $F(4, 303) = 7.45, p > .01$ . The presence of a body-worn camera vs. the absence of the device did not have a significant effect on the likelihood of reporting a crime to the police officer. Whether the officer was going to record the witness statement (using body-camera or notebook) also did not have a significant effect on participants likelihood of reporting, and interactions were not significant ( $p = .36$ ).

**Table 2**

*Means of Likelihood of Reporting by Crime Type*



When comparing the means between the presence/absence of a camera and whether it was recording/not recording, we found the differences to be not significant ( $p = .75$ ). As mentioned before, participants were asked to rate their likelihood of reporting on a 3-point scale ranging from 1 (*not likely*) to 3 (*very likely*). When respondents were presented with the camera present and recording, the mean of reporting was 2.2. With the camera not present and the statement being recorded,  $M=2.2$ , similarly the camera not present and the statement not being recorded,  $M=2.2$ . We did find a potential trend when the camera was present but not recording, where  $M=2.4$ . The representation of these values can be viewed in Table 3, as shown below. Though the difference between the likelihood of reporting with a camera present and recording vs. not recording is not significant ( $p = .75$ ), the mean does show a potential trend in the direction of willingness to report so long as the camera is not recording the statement.

**Table 3**

*Means and Frequencies Across Camera Presence and Recording Conditions*

		Camera Presence	
		Yes	No
Recording	Yes	2.2 (108)	2.2 (93)
	No	2.4 (55)	2.2 (67)

Note. Cell sizes are indicated in parentheses.

A complete list of means of reporting with a body-worn camera present/absent as well as recording/not recording across the five different crimes is included in Table 4 below. As shown, robbery and assault have the highest mean rate of reporting (regardless of the presence or recording by the devices). Conditions including the drug sale scenario have the lowest reporting rates.

**Table 4***Impact of Camera Presence and Recording Status on Likelihood of Reporting*

<b>Crime Seriousness</b>	<b>Body-Worn Camera</b>			
	<b>Present</b>		<b>Absent</b>	
	<b>Will record</b>	<b>Will not record</b>	<b>Will record</b>	<b>Will not record</b>
Robbery	2.4 (20)	2.4 (10)	2.4 (21)	2.6 (14)
Assault	2.3 (23)	2.5 (13)	2.6 (19)	2.3 (13)
Drugs	1.9 (24)	2.0 (9)	1.8 (20)	1.6 (13)
DUI	2.2 (19)	2.4 (13)	2.2 (16)	2.3 (18)
Property Damage	2.2 (22)	2.5 (10)	2.1 (17)	2.0 (9)

Note. Cell sizes are indicated in parentheses.

Because crime had a significant effect on the likelihood of reporting, a Post Hoc analysis was completed to better understand the differences between reporting rates for each crime. For witnessing a property crime, the mean of reporting was 2.2, for DUI  $M=2.3$ , for drug sale  $M=1.8$ , for assault and robbery, the means were 2.4 and 2.5. In order to test for significant differences between reporting rates of each crime, I first compared the two non-violent crimes (property damage and DUI) and found there to be no significant differences ( $p = .60$ ) in reporting. Next, I compared the two violent crimes (assault and robbery) and I found there to be no significant differences as well ( $p = .69$ ). Then I compared violent crimes to non-violent crimes and there was a significant difference between reporting ( $t(303) = 2.299, p = .02$ ). Because drug sales had



the lowest overall mean of reporting, this condition was compared against the other four crime conditions, and the result indicated a significant difference ( $p = .00$ ). Overall, participants were more likely to report more severe crimes (assault and robbery).

### **Privacy Concerns**

Participants were asked to respond to four statements regarding privacy concerns of body-worn cameras in different instances. The first statement asked if the devices recording people in public places were a privacy concern, the second item asked participants their level of agreement on body-worn cameras being a privacy concern when recording people in a private residence, next was their attitudes about BWCs being a violation of witness privacy when recording, and the last statement asked about victims instead of witnesses. A factor analysis was completed with the four items in this questionnaire and all four loaded onto one factor (above .588). A BWC privacy concern scale was created by computing the average of the four items in order to run a correlation between the scale and the dependent variable of likelihood of reporting. The correlation revealed that BWC privacy concern attitudes were significantly correlated with the likelihood of reporting [ $r(323) = -.166, p < .01$ ]. A 2 (body-camera present vs. absent) x 2 (body-camera recording vs. not recording) x 5 (crime type: property, DUI, drug sale, assault, robbery) Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) was completed on the likelihood of reporting and crime type, camera presence, and recording variables served as fixed factors, and the BWC privacy concern scale acted as the covariate. This analysis revealed a significant effect for privacy concerns on the likelihood of reporting [ $F(1,302) = 10.36, p < 0.001$ ]. The significant effect for crime on the likelihood of reporting remained the same ( $p = .00$ ).

### **Police Legitimacy**

Following the privacy concern questionnaire, participants were asked to respond to a series of statements with their level of agreeance regarding police legitimacy (people's basic rights being well protected by police, police can be trusted to make decisions that are right for the community, one should accept police decisions even if they think they are wrong, police have the same sense of right and wrong as the respondent, and having great respect for the police). A factor analysis was completed on all of the five items (listed above) in the police legitimacy scale and they all loaded onto one factor (above .51). Then, a 'police legitimacy' scale was created by computing the average of the five items in order to run a correlation between the scale and the dependent variable (likely to report). It was found that police legitimacy attitudes were significantly correlated with the likelihood of reporting a crime to police [ $r(319) = .349, p < .01$ ]. A 2 (body-camera present vs. absent) x 2 (body-camera recording vs. not recording) x 5 (crime type: property, DUI, drug sale, assault, robbery) Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) was performed on the likelihood of reporting. Crime type was included as a fixed factor in the ANCOVA along with camera presence and recording variables. The police legitimacy scale that was created was added as the covariate. A significant effect was found for police legitimacy on likelihood of reporting [ $F(1,298) = 40.62, p < 0.001$ ]. The significant effect for crime on the likelihood of reporting remained the same ( $p = .00$ ) Also, including police legitimacy in this analysis helped move the interaction between whether the camera was recording and the likelihood of reporting closer to significance (from  $p = .36$  to  $p = .11$ ), indicating a marginally significant trend.

### **Police Effectiveness**

The final set of questions that participants responded to in the survey asked for their attitudes on police effectiveness, responding to the same 5-point scale as before. The first asked

for their level of agreeance on police doing a good job of preventing crime in their neighborhood. If respondents expressed disagreement with the statement, they were asked if they felt mistrust towards police because of their inability to prevent crime in their neighborhood. The second question of this set asked participants to responded with their attitudes on whether the police are able to maintain order on the streets and sidewalks in their neighborhood. Again, those who responded with disagreement were asked if they felt mistrust towards police because of it. A factor analysis was completed on the two items of this set and both loaded onto the same factor (above .802). However, a second factor analysis was done in order to test if the police legitimacy questionnaire (discussed in the previous section) is different from the police effectiveness questionnaire. The analysis was done on all seven items and they fell onto two factors. This means that police legitimacy is different from police effectiveness.

A police effectiveness scale was created by computing the average of the two items, and a correlation was completed. This revealed a significant correlation between police effectiveness attitudes and the likelihood of reporting [ $r(321) = .213, p < .01$ ]. Another ANCOVA was completed with the same fixed factor variables (crime type, presence of camera, and recording) and dependent variable (likelihood of reporting), however the covariate was the police effectiveness scale. A significant effect was found for attitudes on police effectiveness on the likelihood of reporting [ $F(1,300) = 14.05, p < 0.001$ ]. The significant effect for crime on the likelihood of reporting remained the same ( $p = .00$ ). Table 5 outlines the attitudes of participants on privacy concerns, police legitimacy, and police effectiveness.

**Table 5***Percentages of Attitudes Towards Privacy Concerns, Police Legitimacy, and Police Effectiveness*

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
<b>Privacy Concerns</b>			
Body-worn cameras recording people in public places is a privacy concern	33.5%	51.4%	15.2%
Body-worn cameras recording people in a private residence is a privacy concern	61.3%	23.5%	15.2%
Body-worn cameras are a violation of witness privacy when recording	33.7%	37.2%	29.1%
Body-worn cameras are a violation of victim privacy when recording	35.6%	38.4%	26%
<b>Police Legitimacy</b>			
People’s basic rights are well protected by police	46.1%	30.1%	23.2%
The police can be trusted to make decisions that are right for your community	49.8%	28.2%	21.4%
You should accept police decisions even if you think they are wrong	23.5%	50.2%	25.7%
The police have the same sense of right and wrong that I do	42.1%	33.2%	24.5%
I have great respect for the police	54.2%	22.3%	23.2%
<b>Police Effectiveness</b>			
Police are doing a good job of preventing crime in your neighborhood	75.9%	16.4%	7.7%
*I feel mistrust towards police because of this	90.9%	7.3%	1.8%
Police are able to maintain order on the streets and sidewalks in your neighborhood	78.3%	14.2%	6.8%
*I feel mistrust towards police because of this	85.2%	12.7%	2.1%

\* Note: Participants were presented this statement only if indicating disagreement with the two police effectiveness statements.

## CHAPTER 4

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

#### **Summary of Findings**

In this study, it was proposed that the presence of a body-worn camera as well as the device recording would have a significant impact on the likelihood of a potential witness reporting a crime to an officer. This study was designed to test the differences in the likelihood of reporting among several conditions: with a body-camera present vs. not present, the device recording vs. not recording, and spread across five different crimes. The theoretical model of legal cynicism argues that those who believe police to be ineffective will be less likely in reporting or seeking their assistance (Carr, Napolitano, Keating, 2007). This model influenced the police effectiveness questionnaire amongst the survey that was analyzed for potential effects on the likelihood of reporting.

Respondents were randomly assigned to specific conditions, those being one of five crimes (property damage, DUI, drug sale, assault, or robbery), and the scenario involved the officer recording or not recording their witness statement with either a body-camera (present) or notebook (absent). There was no significant impact of the presence or absence of body-worn cameras on the likelihood of reporting a crime to a police officer. There was no significant impact on whether the body-camera was recording or not on the likelihood of reporting as well. These results do not support the first two hypotheses of the study.

Crime type, however, did have a significant effect on reporting behavior which supports the third hypothesis in the study. It was found that there were no differences in reporting among non-violent crimes (property damage and DUI), however there was a difference between non-violent and violent (assault and robbery). Respondents of this survey were more likely to report

more severe crimes than less severe offences. There were also no differences in reporting between the two violent crimes. Among the five crime options, it was found that participants were least likely to report a drug sale and both the non-violent and violent crimes were more likely to be reported than a drug sale.

A majority of participants believed that body-worn cameras recording people in public places was not a privacy concern. Among those that did believe that it was a privacy concern, there was an overall lower average of reporting. Over half of the participants believed that the devices recording in a private residence was a privacy concern, although attitudes on this did not have an effect on differing rates of reporting. Slightly over 15% of the participants indicated that they were unsure as their response. Almost an equal number of respondents were split between the belief and disbelief that body-cameras are a violation of witness and victim privacy when recording. Similar to the first statement, those who indicated that it was a privacy concern correlated with lower likelihood of reporting. About a third of participants in both cases were unsure.

In regard to the police legitimacy questionnaire, over half of the respondents believed that people's basic rights are well protected by police and that they could be trusted to make decisions that are right for the community. Slightly over half did not believe that one must accept police decisions when they believe them to be wrong. More participants agreed than disagreed that the police have the same sense of right and wrong that they do and over half indicated great respect for police. After analyzing each statement and its responses separately, among those who disagreed or strongly disagreed with each statement, there was an overall lower average of reporting. After creating the scale based on the five statements, the analysis revealed that

attitudes on police legitimacy was found to have a significant impact on the likelihood of reporting and the two were significantly correlated.

Lastly, the majority of participants felt that police were doing a good job of preventing crime in their neighborhoods. Out of those that disagreed, the majority indicated mistrust towards police because of this. The large majority of respondents also believed that police were able to maintain order on the streets and sidewalks in their neighborhood. Again, the majority of respondents who disagreed also expressed that this causes them to mistrust police. There was a significant difference in perceptions towards police effectiveness between White and Black respondents. Black respondents indicated more negative perceptions towards the statements provided<sup>2</sup>. There was also a significant correlation between attitudes on police effectiveness and the likelihood of reporting. Average reporting was lower among those who disagreed with the two statements. Participants were asked about their previous reporting experiences and those who indicated more negative experiences correlated with being less likely to report. Respondent's attitudes towards police effectiveness had a significant effect on likelihood of reporting. These findings support the previous research on legal cynicism and how negative experiences, mistrust in police, and believing that they are ineffective can shape the reporting behavior of citizens (Kirk & Papachristos, 2011).

### **Limitations**

There are several limitations to this study that are worth discussing. First, as with any online survey, it is difficult to control for outside factors that can arise during the survey such as participant confusion on questions, technological difficulties, as well as other outside distractions (Heen et al. 2014). A broader limitation of online surveys is potential incentivization to take the

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<sup>2</sup> Black vs. non-Black responses were compared and the difference was significant. White vs. non-White responses were also compared and the difference was not significant.

survey since respondents are compensated (at least in this study) which can potentially lead to providing socially desirable responses. Specifically pertaining to participant confusion, one of the largest limitations to this study was the need to drop nearly half of the respondents because of incorrect responses provided during the manipulation check. This could have been attributed to many things such as respondents rushing through the questionnaire or not understanding the conditions that were provided to them. Although there was a large loss of the sample, it was decided to continue with the analysis since there were still 323 respondents remaining. As mentioned previously, the drop of respondents was due to many indicating that the officer was not going to record their statement, though the officer was, as well as incorrectly identifying whether a notebook or body-camera was recording their statement. A large limitation is that this study involved simulation research, and the conclusions were based off of just a few scenarios, therefore, this indicates an ecological validity problem. Another limitation to consider is that I described what respondents saw in the conditions they were presented with (including the officer with a body-camera). This potentially may have drawn attention to it because it was stated so explicitly. Further, the size, shape, and visibility of the recording status of the body-worn camera might impact the reporting rates of witnesses/victims of crime. This is something that was not addressed in this study since there were no visuals included. In reflection, I might have received more powerful effects if people looked at a visual image (such as a photograph or video) of an officer with a body-worn camera. Lastly, the demographics of the participants were not as representative as I was hoping for, since the large majority of respondents identified as Caucasian, and there were almost double the number of males that responded to the survey.



## **Implications of the Current Study**

Although there were no significant impacts found for the presence of body-worn cameras and the devices recording on likelihood of reporting, there are still several important ideas to consider. Throughout our nation, policies on body-worn cameras vary widely on how to deal with announcing the recording of their interactions/statements to witnesses, victims, and even suspects. Creating more uniform policies throughout all departments might reduce disparities in how officers choose to record/announce recordings to those they deal with on a daily basis. Another policy that varies is gaining consent from victims and witnesses of crime to record their accounts, which raises issues such as potential privacy violations if consent is never gained. Further, it is worth considering how privacy interests come into question when there are discrepancies in policies across the nation as to who will have access to view recordings, and there are only some states whose policies contain a proper balance between the privacy interests of those on the video and allowing the public access to the recordings (Maury, 2017). One of the major findings of this study was the fact that crime type significantly affected the likelihood of reporting. Respondents indicated being less likely to report non-violent crimes such as drug sales, DUIs, and property damage. An implication that can stem from this finding is enhancing police/citizen relationships in order to potentially increase reporting rates of these crimes.

## **Future Directions**

Surveying actual witnesses of crimes on whether the presence of body-worn cameras had any impact on their willingness to report would be useful to better understand potential unintended consequences of the devices. In addition, obtaining attitudes from crime victims about their reporting behaviors in the presence of body-cameras may also be beneficial in adding to existing literature on these devices. There has been little research on the impact body-cameras

can have on victims of crime, therefore it is important to learn more about this issue. It could be helpful to investigate further why respondents are less likely to report non-violent crimes (as was found in this study), specifically why they are less inclined to report crimes involving property damage, DUIs, and even drug sales. It would be interesting to examine whether if a DUI involved a serious injury, if there was significant property damage, or if the type of drug involved in the sale would potentially increase the likelihood of reporting. Because body-camera research is new, further research on the impact of these devices on court decisions, police officers' loss of discretion, and crime victims' perceptions of privacy violations, would be beneficial.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, the results demonstrate that the presence of body-worn cameras (and if they are recording) does not seem to impact reporting rates of potential witnesses across different crime types. Although this disproved the first two hypotheses in this study, the fact that body-cameras had no impact on potential witnesses may be a good finding when considering the worries of unintended consequences of the devices. It may be beneficial to create more in-depth studies on the potential unintended consequences of body-worn cameras, such as including more realistic simulations (videos, photos, etc.) to test any potential impacts on reporting behaviors in the presence of these devices.

## APPENDIX A

### Survey Questionnaire

#### **Introduction**

Welcome to the Crime Reporting Behaviors Study. This study is being conducted by the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. We want to examine your likelihood of reporting different crimes. We are also interested in any privacy concerns you may have related to interviewing witnesses of crimes. Ultimately, we hope to improve the understanding of crime reporting behaviors.

Please DO NOT turn back a page once you have finished it. We are interested in the responses that you make as you read through the materials the first time. There are no right or wrong answers. All responses will remain completely confidential and the only identifying information will be your unique Mechanical Turk Worker ID, which will be destroyed from our data once compensation is approved.

Please copy the code at the end of the survey to submit to receive your compensation.

The next page is a consent form. Please read it over carefully before beginning the study. Thank you for your participation!

#### **Consent**

Informed Consent Department of Criminal Justice

Title of Study: Crime Reporting Behaviors

Investigator(s): Dr. Joel D. Lieberman & Tanya Dudinskaya

For questions or concerns about the study, you may contact **Tanya Dudinskaya** at **dudinska@unlv.nevada.edu**.

For questions regarding the rights of research subjects, any complaints or comments regarding the manner in which the study is being conducted, contact the UNLV Office of Research Integrity – Human Subjects at 702-895-2794, toll free at 877-895-2794 or via email at IRB@unlv.edu.

#### Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impacts of reporting behaviors of potential witnesses of crime. Particularly, we are interested in learning how likely a potential witness is to report a crime.

### Participants

You are being asked to participate in the study because you fit these criteria: U.S. Citizen over the age of 18.

### Procedures

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to do the following: complete a short demographic questionnaire, previous reporting questionnaire, and complete a questionnaire on your likelihood of reporting different crimes that you witness.

### Risks of Participation

There are risks involved in all research studies. This study may include only minimal risks. The present survey is designed to imagine yourself being a witness to the crime scenarios we provide, some of which may be violent in nature, while others not.

### Cost/Compensation

The study will take up to 15 minutes of your time. You will be compensated for your time.

### Confidentiality

All information gathered in this study will be kept as confidential as possible. No reference will be made in written or oral materials that could link you to this study. All records will be stored in a locked facility at UNLV for three years after completion of the study. After the storage time the information gathered will be destroyed.

### Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to participate in this study or in any part of this study. You are encouraged to ask questions about this study at the beginning or any time during the research study.

### Participant Consent:

I have read the above information and agree to participate in this study. I have been able to ask questions about the research study. I am at least 18 years of age. A copy of this form has been given to me.

By clicking NEXT below, I affirm that I have read the above information and agree to participate in the study. I am at least 18 years of age.

## Demographics

What is your age range?

- 18 – 24 (1)
  - 25 – 34 (2)
  - 35 – 49 (3)
  - 50 – 64 (4)
  - 65 and over (5)
- 

What is your gender?

- Male (1)
  - Female (2)
  - Other (3)
- 

What is your race/ethnicity?

- Asian (1)
  - American Indian or Alaskan Native (2)
  - Black or African American (3)
  - Caucasian (4)
  - Hispanic or Latino (5)
  - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (6)
  - Other (7) \_\_\_\_\_
-

What is your political affiliation?

- Democrat (1)
  - Republican (2)
  - Independent (3)
  - Libertarian (4)
  - Other (5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 

What is the highest level of education you completed?

- Less than high school (1)
  - High School/GED (2)
  - Some College (3)
  - Bachelor's Degree (4)
  - Master's Degree (5)
  - PhD/JD (6)
- 

What is your annual household income?

- Less than \$30,000 (1)
  - \$30,000 to \$59,999 (2)
  - \$60,000 to \$99,999 (3)
  - \$100,000 or more (4)
-

Are you a U.S. citizen?

Yes (1)

No (2)

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Have you ever worked in the law enforcement field?

Yes (1)

No (2)

### **Previous Reporting**

If you have witnessed a crime (or crimes) take place, have you ever reported it to a police officer?

Yes, I reported it. (1)

No, I did not report it. (2)

No, I have not witnessed a crime take place. (3)

Have your crime reporting experiences to police generally been more positive or more negative?

Use the following scale to answer each question: 1 = Very **negative** experience(s)

5 = Very **positive** experience(s)

1 (1)

2 (2)

3 (3)

4 (4)

5 (5)

**Condition 20**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person start smashing windows of a park building. After damaging the building, the person quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch**.

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### **Condition 19**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person start smashing windows of a park building. After damaging the building, the person quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch**.



If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 18

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person start smashing windows of a park building. After damaging the building, the person quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera.**

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 17

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person start smashing windows of a park building. After damaging the building, the person quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting

what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera**.

If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 16

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person drinking alcohol nearby. The person appears to be highly intoxicated. A few minutes later, the person gets into a car and quickly drives away.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch**.

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 15

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person drinking alcohol nearby. The person appears to be highly intoxicated. A few minutes later, the person gets into a car and quickly drives away.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch.**

If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

#### **Condition 14**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person drinking alcohol nearby. The person appears to be highly intoxicated. A few minutes later, the person gets into a car and quickly drives away.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera.**

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

#### **Condition 13**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person drinking alcohol nearby. The person appears to be highly intoxicated. A few minutes later, the person gets into a car and quickly drives away.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera**.

If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### **Condition 12**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person openly selling drugs to someone in the park. You have seen needles around and think it might be heroin. The person who sold the drugs quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch**.

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 11

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person openly selling drugs to someone in the park. You have seen needles around and think it might be heroin. The person who sold the drugs quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch**.

If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 10

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person openly selling drugs to someone in the park. You have seen needles around and think it might be heroin. The person who sold the drugs quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera**.

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 9

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person openly selling drugs to someone in the park. You have seen needles around and think it might be heroin. The person who sold the drugs quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera**.

If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera**, how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 8

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **two people fighting. One person falls to the ground, and the other person repeatedly kicks him in the side, stomach, and head then quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch.**

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### **Condition 7**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **two people fighting. One person falls to the ground, and the other person repeatedly kicks him in the side, stomach, and head then quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch.**

If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 6

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see two people fighting. **One person falls to the ground, and the other person repeatedly kicks him in the side, stomach, and head then quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera**.

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 5

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **two people fighting. One person falls to the ground, and the other person repeatedly kicks him in the side, stomach, and head then quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera**.



If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

#### **Condition 4**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person approach another and pull out a gun. The second person hands over some money and a watch, before the person with the gun quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch**.

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

#### **Condition 3**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person approach another and pull out a gun. The second person hands over some money and a watch, before the person with the gun quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **patch**.

If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **notebook** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

## **Condition 2**

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person approach another and pull out a gun. The second person hands over some money and a watch, before the person with the gun quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera**.

If you know that your statements **will not** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Condition 1

When reporting a crime to a police officer, they may take notes on your statements along with a body-worn camera recording your interaction.

Please read the following scenarios and respond with how likely you would be to report the following crimes after witnessing them.

You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see **a person approach another and pull out a gun. The second person hands over some money and a watch, before the person with the gun quickly leaves.**

You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking **body camera**.

If you know that your statements **will** be recorded by the officer using a **body-worn camera** how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?

- Not likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Very likely to report (3)

### Manipulation Check

Please respond to the following questions based on the crime incident question you just answered.

What was the crime incident that you just read about?

- Robbery (1)
  - Drug Deal (2)
  - Assault (3)
  - DUI (4)
  - Property Damage (5)
- 

Was the officer going to record your statement?

- Yes (1)
  - No (2)
- 

Which of the following items did the officer have to record your statement?

- Notebook (1)
- Body-worn camera (2)

## Privacy Concerns

Please read the following statement and respond with your level of agreement.

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Unsure (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
Body-worn cameras recording people in public places is a privacy concern (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Body-worn cameras recording people in a private residence is a privacy concern (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Body-worn cameras are a violation of witness privacy when recording (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Body-worn cameras are a violation of victim privacy when recording (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Opinions on Police

Please read the following statements and respond with your level of agreement.

	Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Unsure (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly Agree (5)
People's basic rights are well protected by police (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The police can be trusted to make decisions that are right for your community (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You should accept police decisions even if you think they are wrong (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The police have the same sense of right and wrong that I do (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have great respect for the police (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Police Perceptions

Please read the following statement and respond with your level of agreement.

Police are doing a good job of preventing crime in your neighborhood.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Unsure (5)

I feel mistrust towards police because of this.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Unsure (5)

Police are able to maintain order on the streets and sidewalks in your neighborhood.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Unsure (5)

I feel mistrust towards police because of this.

- Strongly Disagree (1)
- Disagree (2)
- Agree (3)
- Strongly Agree (4)
- Unsure (5)

Do you currently feel mistrust towards police because of any of the following reasons below?

- Lack of respect for public (1)
- Abuse of power (2)
- Unable to rely on their response (3)
- Other (4) \_\_\_\_\_
- I do not feel mistrust towards police (5)



## APPENDIX B

### Scenarios

#### **Robbery**

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see a person approach another and pull out a gun. The second person hands over some money and a watch, before the person with the gun quickly leaves. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

#### **Assault**

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see two people fighting. One person falls to the ground, and the other person repeatedly kicks him in the side, stomach, and head then quickly leaves. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

#### **Drug Sale**

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see a person openly selling drugs to someone in the park. You have seen needles around and think it might be heroin. The person who sold the drugs quickly leaves. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer

stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

## **DUI**

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see a person drinking alcohol nearby. The person appears to be highly intoxicated. A few minutes later, the person gets into a car and quickly drives away. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

## **Property Damage**

“You are sitting in a park, and in the distance, you see a person start smashing windows of a park building. After damaging the building, the person quickly leaves. You remember seeing a police officer when you entered the park, and you think about reporting what you saw. You also remember that the police officer stood out to you, because he was wearing a new looking *body camera/patch*. If you know that your statements *will/will not* be recorded by the officer using a *body-worn camera/notebook* how likely are you to come forward to describe what you saw?”

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**Education**

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Present	M.A. Criminal Justice, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2016 – 2018	B.A. Criminal Justice, Summa Cum Laude, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2014 – 2016	General education requirements completed, California State University, Northridge

**Employment**

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2018 – Present	Graduate Assistant, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2017 – 2019 Services	Youth and Family Assistant, Department of Juvenile Justice

**Research Experience**

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2020 – Present	Research Associate, Body-Worn Camera Impact on Witness Reporting Research Principal Investigator: Joel D. Lieberman
2017 – 2018	Research Associate, NSF Grant #1625808 Principal Investigator: Joel D. Lieberman & Terance D. Miethe

**Professional Publications**

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Miethe, T.D., C. Forepaugh, T. Dudinskaya (forthcoming). Carjacking. Encyclopedia of Transportation edited by Per Garter, Elsevier Press.

**Professional Presentations**

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Dudinskaya, T., Heen, M. SJ. & Lieberman, J. D. (2019, November). Impact of Body-Worn Cameras on Sexual Assault Reporting at Music Concerts and Festivals. Poster presented at 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

Dudinskaya, T., Heen, M. S.J., Lieberman, J. D., Miethe, T.D., & Sousa, W. H. (2019, January). Public attitudes about body-worn cameras in police work: A national study of the sources of their contextual variability. Paper presented at 46th Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Criminology, Honolulu, HI.

Heen, M. S.J., Dudinskaya, T., Lieberman, J. D., & Miethe, T. D. (2018, November). Reaching out to the public or up to the sky? Community-police relations and attitudes towards police use of visual surveillance technology. Paper presented at 74th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

### **Awards and Honors**

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2018

Kriss Drass Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award