

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 6**

December 9, 2025

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON**

December 9, 2025

**SUBJECT: DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM (DICVS) USE AND DEPLOYMENT – REVISED; AND, DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO EVIDENCE CONTROL LOG, FORM 10.11.05 – DEACTIVATED**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Order is to revise Department policy regarding the use and deployment of the Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS) following the transition from the Safe Fleet Coban System to the Axon Fleet 3 System. The Axon Fleet 3 System integrates DICVS and Body Worn Video and permits audio and video synchronization from both the DICVS and body-worn cameras, with all recordings stored in Axon's cloud-based digital evidence management platform, Evidence.com. This transition is intended to improve operational efficiency and ensure that all evidentiary recordings are systematically and securely maintained.

This Order also introduces **Axon Signal – Vehicle**, which activates the Axon Body Worn Video and DICVS cameras of officers logged into the Axon Fleet 3 DICVS when their vehicle's lightbar is in the Stage-2 or Stage-3 positions.

Additionally, the DICVS and Body Worn Video via Axon – Signal will now activate after a 5-second delay upon selecting Stage-2 or Stage-3 on their lightbar. This change reduces the previous 10-second delay for DICVS.

This Order also establishes new protocols for documenting, inspecting, and reporting failures or damage to the DICVS. These updates aim to improve video capture, streamline processes, and enhance accountability within the Department. This Order also deactivates the Digital In-Car Video Evidence Control Log, Form 10.11.05, as it is obsolete and not applicable to the current DICVS system.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM (DICVS) USE AND DEPLOYMENT – REVISED.** Department Manual Section 3/579.13, *Digital In-Car Video System (DICVS) Use and Deployment*, has been revised. Attached is the revised Department Manual section with the revisions in italics.
- II. DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO EVIDENCE CONTROL LOG, FORM 10.11.05 – DEACTIVATED.** The Digital In-Car Video Evidence Control Log, Form 10.11.05, has been deactivated. All copies of this form shall be discarded and placed into Area/divisional recycling bins.

**AMENDMENT:** This Order amends Section 3/579.13, of the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 03080.30

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim McDonnell", is written over the text of the signature block.

JIM McDONNELL  
Chief of Police

Attachment

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**579.13 DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM (DICVS) USE AND DEPLOYMENT.**

**RECORDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**

**Required Activation of the Digital In-Car Video System.** Officers shall *immediately* activate the DICVS *and continuously record, for the entire duration,* of the following activities:

- All vehicle stops;
- All Code 3 responses, *including vehicle pursuits;*
- All suspect transports;
- All pedestrian stops (as soon as practicable); and,
- Any other occasion when the officer *determines* it would be beneficial to do so. This may include Mobile Field Force situations, or any situation, condition, or event presenting the potential for injury, loss of life, damage to property, or any potential risk-management issue.

*Note: If an officer is unable to activate their DICVS prior to initiating any of the required enforcement or investigative activities, the officer shall activate the device as soon as it is practical and safe to do so.*

*When Department personnel activate the forward-facing red emergency light, the DICVS will activate after a delay of five seconds; however, the DICVS can be immediately activated by pressing the activation button on the camera. Personnel are reminded that if they choose not to activate the forward-facing red emergency light, and are not otherwise required to do so, they shall manually activate the DICVS, when recording is required.*

**Deactivation of the Digital In-Car Video System.** Once the DICVS is activated, the front camera shall remain activated until the entire incident or field contact has ended. The rear camera shall remain activated until the rear passenger (*person being transported*) has exited the vehicle.

**Note:** The Digital In-Car Video System can only be deactivated from the inside of the vehicle.

**Documentation Required for Failing to Activate DICVS or Failing to Record the Duration of the Contact.** *If an officer does not activate the DICVS prior to initiating an activity for which activation is required, does not record the entire incident or field contact, or interrupts the recording for any reason, the officer shall document the reasons for the deviation in the "comments" section of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System; Daily Field Activities Report (DFAR), Form 15.52.00; Traffic Daily Field Activities Report, Form 15.52.01; Sergeant's Daily Report, Form 15.48.00; or Gang Enforcement Detail – Supervisor's Daily Report, Form 15.49.00.*

**VEHICLE-ACTIVATED BODY WORN CAMERA.** *The DICVS is equipped with Axon Vehicle – Signal, the function which activates the body worn video cameras when the police vehicle's*

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*lightbar is in the Stage-2 or Stage-3 position for a duration of 5 seconds. The DICVS provides a Bluetooth signal for 30 seconds from the time of activation, designed to remotely activate the body worn cameras of the officers logged into the vehicle's DICVS. Officers must be within transmission range and their body worn cameras must be paired to the vehicle's DICVS to be activated via this method.*

*Although the Axon Vehicle – Signal feature is designed to activate the Body Worn Video, officers are reminded that this is a fallback measure. This feature is **not** intended to eliminate officers' responsibility to activate their BWV/DICVS, when required. **Officers shall not rely solely on this feature to activate their BWV.** It remains each officer's responsibility to ensure that their BWV is activated in accordance with Department policy.*

### **REVIEW OF DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM RECORDINGS.**

The recorded DICVS files can be viewed in *Evidence.com*.

**Documentation.** When preparing crime and/or arrest reports, the reporting employee(s) shall, when practicable, review any incident captured on video to refresh their recollection.

**Situations Involving the Use of Force.** Prior to being interviewed regarding a use of force (UOF), officers should, when practicable, review video footage captured during the incident and/or other relevant footage.

In accordance with Department Manual Section 3/794.37, employees involved in a Categorical Use of Force (CUOF) shall be separated and monitored in order to maintain the independence of their recollection of the incident. *The involved employees shall not review the DICVS until authorized by the assigned Force Investigation Division (FID) investigator. Once authorized, the employee shall review their own DICVS recording, and other relevant DICVS footage as deemed necessary and appropriate by the assigned FID investigator, prior to being interviewed.* During the review of the video footage, the employee shall be accompanied by *their* employee representative or the assigned investigator should the employee elect not to have a representative *of their own choosing* present during the interview.

The separating and monitoring of the involved employees shall be maintained during the review of the video footage (i.e., the review shall never occur jointly among the involved employees).

In accordance with Department Manual Section 4/245.02, officers are required to provide a Public Safety Statement (PSS) subsequent to their involvement in officer-involved-shootings. The urgency associated with the PSS will, in most cases, preclude an officer *from reviewing* related video footage prior to providing the PSS.

The Department supervisor obtaining the PSS shall comply with *Department Manual Sections 3/795 and 4/245.02.*

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**MISUSE OF THE DIGITAL IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEM AND RECORDINGS.** *Use of the DICVS is limited to enforcement and investigative activities. The DICVS recordings will capture video and audio evidence for use in criminal and administrative investigations, supervisor reviews, and other proceedings protected by confidentiality laws and Department policy. All data and imagery captured by the DICVS are the sole property of the Los Angeles Police Department.*

*The unauthorized use or release of DICVS recordings may compromise ongoing criminal and administrative investigations or violate the privacy rights of those recorded. Any unauthorized use or release of DICVS recordings or other violation of confidentiality laws and Department policies are considered serious misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution. Officers shall comply with all applicable laws and policies regarding confidential information, including Department Manual Section 3/405, Confidential Nature of Department Records, Reports, and Information.*

**Note:** Department employees are reminded that copies of DICVS recorded video files shall only be for official Department use. Employees **shall not** retain a copy of video files without the express permission of the commanding officer of the entity that is assigned the investigative responsibility for the incident. Employees may be subject to disciplinary action for the unauthorized duplication or retention of the video files.

**PROHIBITION AGAINST MODIFICATION OF RECORDINGS.** *Department personnel shall not copy, edit, alter, erase, or otherwise modify DICVS recordings in any manner, except as authorized by law or Department policy.*

**OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITY.** *Department personnel equipped with DICVS shall:*

- *Inspect and test their DICVS at the beginning of their shift to ensure it is undamaged and operating properly by logging into the system and creating a test video;*

**Note:** *For two-person units deploying DICVS, both officers shall be logged into the system.*

- *Notify an on-duty supervisor and report any malfunctioning, damaged, or inoperable equipment to the kitroom officer; and,*

**Note:** *If a vehicle's DICVS becomes damaged, Department personnel shall also complete an Employee's Report, Form 15.07.00, documenting the damage.*

- *Notify the watch commander if they are unable to obtain a vehicle with a functional DICVS before deploying to the field.*

*The kit room officer shall remove the equipment from service and notify the system administrator at Information Technology Bureau via email.*

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**SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES.** *Supervisors assigned to any unit with DICVS equipment shall:*

- *Ensure that personnel under their supervision conduct Start of watch DICVS equipment checks;*
- *Review relevant DICVS recordings when completing, and prior to submitting, any administrative investigation reports (e.g.; Non-categorical use of force investigations, pursuits, officer-involved traffic crashes);*
  - *Supervisors investigating Non-Categorical Use of Force (NCUOF) incidents shall ensure the involved Department personnel review their DICVS recordings and, if necessary, review other DICVS recordings to ensure complete and accurate documentation of the incident;*
  - *Once an incident involving a Categorical Use of Force has stabilized and/or concluded, supervisors shall ensure the involved DICVS has been deactivated; and,*
  - *Supervisors shall maintain custody and control of the involved vehicle at the scene until custody has been transferred to FID personnel.*

*Note: Supervisors shall not view the DICVS recording without express authorization of FID, unless exigent circumstances exist including the need to determine the description, location, or last direction of travel of suspects, witnesses, or victims, or a threat to public safety.*

**WATCH COMMANDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES.** *Watch Commanders shall:*

- *Conduct roll call training and debrief incidents of value captured on DICVS;*

*Note: Watch Commanders shall follow the procedures established in Department Manual Section 3/579.17, Use of Body Worn Video or Digital In-Car Video System for Los Angeles Police Department Training Purposes, prior to using DICVS recordings for roll call training or incident debriefs.*

- *Review deviations from DICVS policy and procedures and take appropriate action;*
- *Ensure all DICVS deviations identified by the Area Training Coordinator have been addressed and all appropriate documentation is submitted to the Area Training Coordinator for Area commanding officer review;*
- *Review kitroom officer inspection reports regarding defective equipment or systems, and ensure necessary steps are taken to have them repaired; and,*
- *Review Sergeant's Daily Reports to ensure Start of Watch inspections of sworn personnel assigned DICVS- equipped vehicles are being conducted and documented.*
  - *If inspections are not properly documented, take appropriate action to correct the deficiency, appropriately document the findings and the corrective action taken.*

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***COMMANDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES.** Area commanding officers (Areas with DICVS) are responsible for ensuring compliance with the procedures within this section. Additionally, commanding officers, or their designee, shall regularly monitor and inspect DICVS equipment within their command.*