

A RESOLUTION

23-284

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 3, 2019

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to grant access to body worn camera footage to certain parties connected to a deceased subject depicted in the footage.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Access to Body-Worn Camera Footage Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a) This emergency legislation would approve adjustments to the access provisions of the body-worn camera program to allow certain parties connected to a deceased subject depicted in the footage to have access.

(b) Access to body-worn camera footage is currently extended to the subject of the footage and their legal representative. Access is also provided to a minor’s parent or legal guardian.

(c) The regulations do not consider who shall be provided access in the event of the death of the subject. This lack of consideration is most impactful when the footage depicts the homicide of the subject.

(d) In instances of police-involved shootings, the lack of access by close relatives such as the parents of the subject does not forward the transparency goals that the body-worn camera program was designed to forward.

(e) There have been instances where the parent of a decedent have not been able to access the body worn camera footage, which has added to the emotional distress that follows the death of a child. This emergency legislation will bring relief to families that are similarly situated.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Access to Body-Worn Camera Footage Emergency Regulation Amendment Act of 2019 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.