

## **Public Notice: Use of Body-Worn Cameras by Hotchkiss Police Department**

The Hotchkiss Police Department is committed to transparency, accountability, and building trust within our community. As part of this commitment, all officers of the Hotchkiss Police Department are equipped with **Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs)** during official duties.

The use of Body-Worn Cameras serves several important purposes, including:

- Documenting interactions between officers and the public;
- Enhancing the accuracy of incident reporting;
- Promoting accountability of both officers and individuals;
- Supporting evidence collection for investigations and court proceedings.

In accordance with **Colorado state law (C.R.S. § 24-31-902)**, the Hotchkiss Police Department:

- Requires officers to activate their body-worn cameras during enforcement actions, stops, arrests, and other official interactions with the public;
- Retains and manages recordings in compliance with state archival rules;
- Releases footage upon request in accordance with legal requirements, particularly when misconduct is alleged;
- Protects the privacy of individuals when necessary, including redaction or delayed release of recordings in sensitive situations.

While officers are not required by law to verbally notify individuals that they are being recorded, the presence of a visible body-worn camera and professional conduct are standard during all encounters.

In addition to complying with legal standards, the Hotchkiss Police Department values community feedback regarding the use of Body-Worn Cameras. We welcome your thoughts and input to help ensure our policies reflect the expectations and values of the people we serve.

If you have any questions or would like to share your perspective on our Body-Worn Camera program, please contact the Hotchkiss Police Department at (970) 872-3848 or email us at [chief@townofhotchkiss.com](mailto:chief@townofhotchkiss.com).