

**MINUTES OF THE MAYFIELD VILLAGE  
RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING  
Mayfield Village Main Conference Room  
Mayfield Village Civic Center  
Monday, November 17, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.**

The Records Commission met on Monday, November 17, 2025 in the Main Conference Room at the Mayfield Village Civic Center. Chairman Weltman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Members:** Mayor Brenda Bodnar  
Law Department – Jim Budzik, Esq.  
Finance Director Angie Rich  
Randy Weltman (Resident)  
Lorry Nadeau (Resident)

**Also in Attendance:** Diane Wolgamuth (Administration)  
Mary Betsa, Council Clerk/Records Custodian  
Alyssa Fikaris, Alternate Records Custodian  
Chief Matias (Police Department)  
Maura McKinley (Police Department)

**1. Approval of Minutes of Monday, October 20, 2025**

Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. McKinley, moved to approve the Minutes of Monday, October 20, 2025.

Chairman Weltman asked, discussion?

There was none.

Roll Call:	AYES: All	Motion Carried
	NAYS: None	Minutes of October 20, 2025
		Approved as Written

**2. Public Records Policy**

Chairman Weltman asked, from looking at our packet, there is a need to make a revision to the current policy?

Chief Matias stated, a few months ago, the Governor approved a Bill that would allow us to start charging for public records, specifically video. So bodycam, dashcam, things like that. When that was approved, we kind of took a hard look and had a discussion about what do we want to

do for our policy on that; how do we want to move forward. And at that time, our public records, even though for little Mayfield Village, we seem to get quite a few, was very manageable. And so we felt just to kind of promote transparency, what my suggestion was is we allow the first 4 hours to be free, since the majority of our requests, total video produced usually is under that amount, that seemed pretty reasonable to do. When that was approved, the idea was kind of, if we need to come back and revisit it because circumstances change, it allows us the ability to do that.

Well, things have changed. Over the past 10 days, we've gotten about 50 records requests. It was 45, but I got five more today. Maura, I didn't tell you about the five more yet. They are all from what I call media trolls. The email lists are all like midwestnews.live, FOIAteam.live, getmedia.org. So they're not legitimate news agencies. They're just trolling for records, and what I assume they're trying to do is find stuff that they can put on the Internet and get clicks and posts. They're just looking for juicy police stories. Now, the majority of the records requests we've gotten so far haven't requested the body cam footage. But what I predict is they want to get the reports, and then once they get the reports, if it looks like it's something good, then they're going to be followed by body cam video requests.

The requests we've received are already quite a burden on us, mainly Maura, just to do the regular going through, getting the records, doing the redactions and things like that. If these start turning into body cam requests, it's really going to be a problem because imagine if you have an arrest and you have multiple officers, you have dash cam, you have body cam, we have to watch all of that in real time in order to redact it. So if it's an hour-and-a-half video, we have to watch the entire hour-and-a-half and then go back and redact any statements on anything that was filmed. It takes quite a bit of time and manpower to do that. We're a small agency. We don't have records people. Some of the records processing is built into our job description, but the video would just make it quite burdensome. And so in order to compensate for that, the time spent, and also in reality to make it a little bit of a deterrent for the trolls, we figured it would be appropriate now to put it in where we can start charging for any video.

Chairman Weltman asked, okay, so right now if we look at Section 3 of our policy, that's what we're dealing with? And what we have in front of us is the proposed policy or the existing one?

Mr. Budzik replied, it should be the proposed policy.

Chairman Weltman stated, okay, so within this body of language is where we're changing it. Well, that's a great presentation. So, what's the motive of these people? Where do they make money with all that time they spend?

Chief Matias stated, I'm assuming what they do is once they get the body cam video, they'll have their own Facebook page, and they'll post the video. And then when people watch the video and they click on and like it and stuff like that, I guess my limited understanding of technology and the Internet is that if you get a large amount of followers, you can start either getting paid through Facebook or getting ad money or something. So that's what they're going for is they're trying to get content that they can post. Because if you go on YouTube now and look up crazy

police videos, you'll see just tons and tons of content that people want you to click on and watch. And that's all they're trying to do. Because that's the other issue, none of these are legitimate news agencies. Some of the problems we're having is just out of the five we received today, one of them, the person's already made five other requests in the past 10 days. Another one's already done three requests. We have 12 requests from this 7weeknews.live. And so we're getting multiple requests from the same e-mail addresses.

Chairman Weltman asked, if you blew them off, would they be vigilant and come after you?

Chief Matias replied, I don't know what would happen if we just ignored these fake things. That's another discussion we can have outside of the Commission. Realistically we can only go by what the laws are now. And we have to answer the requests and provide the information. And, again, the requests for the reports are already a lot of work for us to do. But then if we have to start including the video, it's just going to take up a lot of time.

Mrs. Nadeau asked, so, Chief, they don't pay for the reports?

Chief Matias replied, no.

Ms. McKinley replied, we just send it electronically.

Chief Matias stated, the only way we can recoup money for the reports is if we were printing them out for them. All the work that Maura does to get the report prepared, redacted, everything done, there's no reimbursement for it. That gets sent electronically. Again, that already is a lot of time that we can't recover.

Mrs. Nadeau stated, so this might even deter those written reports, too.

Chief Matias replied, I have no idea.

Mrs. Nadeau stated, if they can't get the video, the goal is the video, and you're deterring them financially, then maybe some of these organizations won't even bother asking for the actual reports.

Chief Matias stated, and there is a theory that one of the reasons we're getting hammered is because of our responsiveness to the requests. We kind of touched on this, but I believe there are agencies out there that just ignore these completely. And, again, the main point of the fee isn't specifically a deterrence because we do want legitimate agencies, people with legitimate reasons for getting these, to be able to access all of our information. There's actually several States that have changed the laws because of vexatious requesters.

Mr. Budzik stated, or vexatious litigators.

Chief Matias replied, yes. So there's actually States that are changing the laws for vexatious public records requests. And that's what we're basically trying to do with time, because when

Maura and the Detective Bureau are doing these videos, that's time that they're not doing other things that they're supposed to be doing.

Mayor Bodnar stated, well, to Lorry's point, it might be a good idea if the request for a written report comes first. Then we are responding to that, and here's what you requested, but please be advised, we have changed our policy as to videos. So if you're going to request a video you're going to be charged, and here's the rates.

Chief Matias replied, right. We could send our policy. Also many of the requests do say, we're not asking for it at this time, but is body cam available, and what is the process? To which we could respond to that, because many of the requests have that. And, of course, they ask, since this is for transparency, they ask that we waive all fees, which naturally we're not going to do. We're going to talk about that, about some canned replies to certain requests so that people know what's happening.

Chairman Weltman stated, all right. Does anybody else have any questions for the Chief or Maura in terms of changing the policy? Did you look over the language, Jim?

Mr. Budzik replied, I prepared the language. We did have the clause that said if they ask for the video, that's fine. We initially check to see how long we think it's going to take, and we give them the estimate, and then we charge them before we do any type of work. And then in the language that's still in there, after that we get to charge up to 20% higher than what we may have originally charged up to the \$750 maximum. What we did change in Section 3 was the language that said the first four hours were free. That language also appeared at the end of the policy, and I deleted that where it talked about the first four hours.

Just so you're aware, and I let the Chief know this, I changed the language slightly. In our first policy it said that you could recover for costs for staff time. I scratched that out. There's an issue now that's been cropping up that you can charge for all the staff time, which would include looking at the reports, looking at the CAD reports, doing other things associated with preparing a response, even before you start the video review and redaction. The Ohio Attorney General has said it should be limited to the cost of producing the video only, and a lot of the ancillary costs should not be included. So I added the language here that specifically states that the charge is based on the length of the final video record. Now, again, like the Chief said, you're going to have to listen to it in real time. A lot of times you're going to listen to it two or three times to find out what you've got to do. So you're still going to probably make something on this a little bit, but, again, you're not getting the first four hours free. Because as I understand it, when you first have the record, you're going to know up front the body cam was 45 minutes or an hour. So you're going to know up front that's what you're going to be looking at in real time first. Then you've got to go through a couple different parts that you think may have to be redacted, and that's probably going to be looked at two or three times. So there will be a couple more charges with that. But looking at the reports, CAD reports and incident reports in relation to the video, you can't really charge for that.

Chief Matias stated, and there's also phone calls and radio logs that also have to be listened to. When we add up the time it takes to do the records request, the request is definitely coming out on the front end, even if we end up charging them the maximum. Because if we end up having to charge the maximum of \$750 for one request, that's going to take us two weeks to do. So they're definitely coming out on the winning end. If we charge for actual time, it would be more than the \$75 an hour.

Mr. Budzik stated, another end of this is that, again, the Chief's right, this didn't take effect until April. So there's no cases on this yet. One of the issues is also going to be where you get multiple requests from different agencies for the same video. I drafted this so you can charge each one that comes in, a different request comes in, you're going to charge them for it. So while the first one may take a little bit longer, if Mr. Jones comes in on behalf of this other media and asks for the same one, you're still going to charge at least for the whole review at first. Even though you've already done the work and you know what it's going to be like. I'm not going to give you a break because you had to pay for it the first time and you come in the second time around and all of a sudden, oh, it only took you 10 minutes to produce because it was already reviewed. No, everyone's going to get charged about the same. So if we do get multiple requests, at least it won't take that long for the second, third time around from those four or five.

Chief Matias stated, Jim always puts the sunshine in "sunshine".

Chairman Weltman stated, okay, so any need for some more discussion before we take this up for a vote?

There were no further comments.

. **Motion to approve the Public Records Policy, amended November 17, 2025**

Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mayor Bodnar, moved to approve the Public Records Policy, amended November 17, 2025.

Chairman Weltman asked, discussion?

There was none.

Roll Call:     AYES: All  
                  NAYS: None

Motion Carried  
Public Records Policy  
Amended November 17, 2025  
Approved

Chief Matias stated, this definitely helps. I appreciate everybody getting together so quickly. The requests just kept on coming in and coming in. I could feel like an avalanche coming. And I was like, we need to address this right away. So I appreciate it. And I know Maura appreciates it. The rest of my staff appreciates it.

**3. Any Other Matters**

Chairman Weltman asked, are there any further matters to discuss?

There were none.

There being no further matters to come before the Commission, Mrs. Nadeau, seconded by Mayor Bodnar, made a motion to adjourn.

Roll Call: AYES: All  
NAYS: None

Motion Carried  
Meeting Adjourned

The meeting concluded at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Betsa, MMC  
Council Clerk/Records Custodian