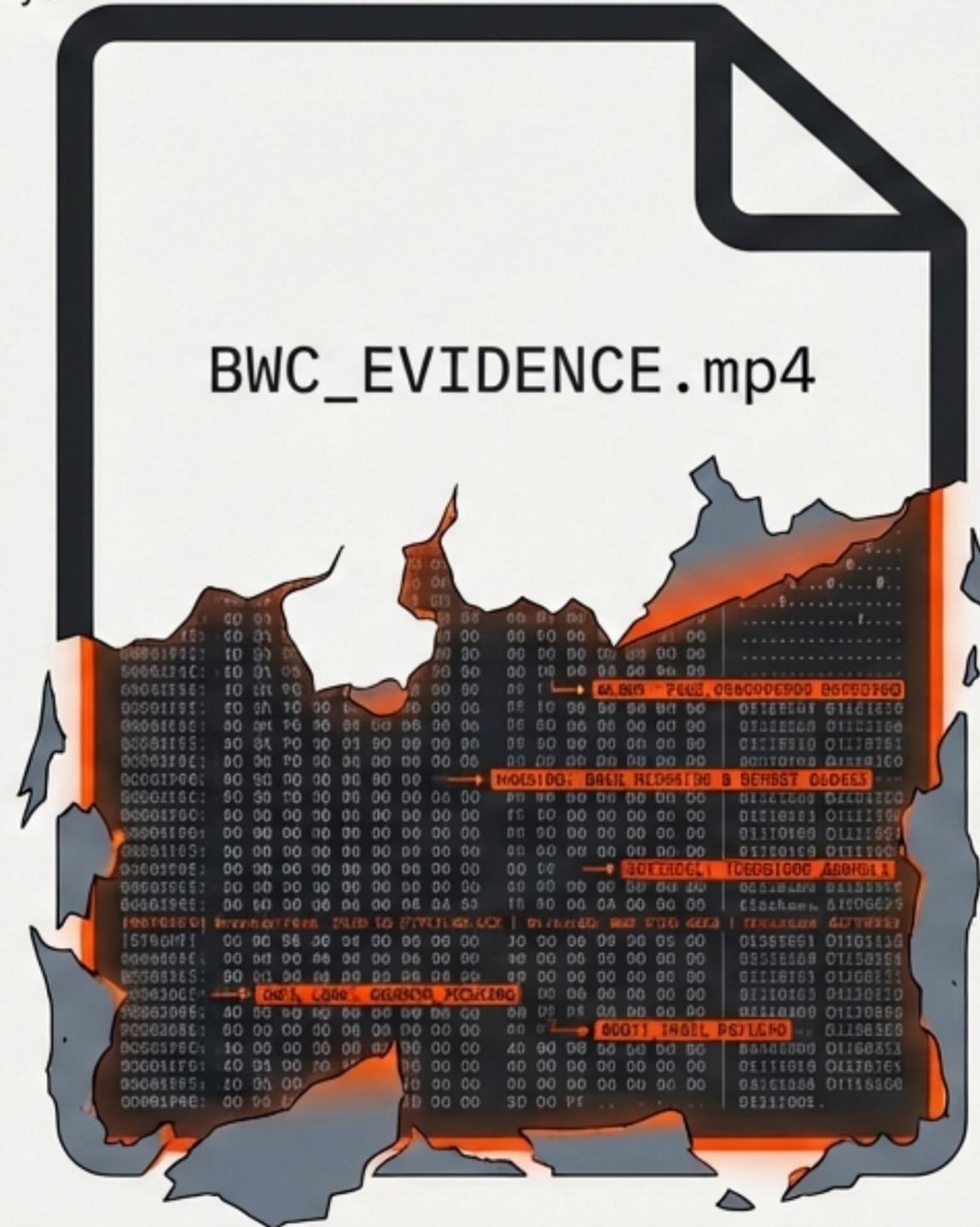


Prove the Record: The Audit Trail Is the Evidence

Why the 'Video File' is No Longer Enough:
A Guide to the New Era of Record Integrity.



Analysis based on: The Audit Trail Is the Evidence
by Eric Sanders, The Sanders Firm, P.C.

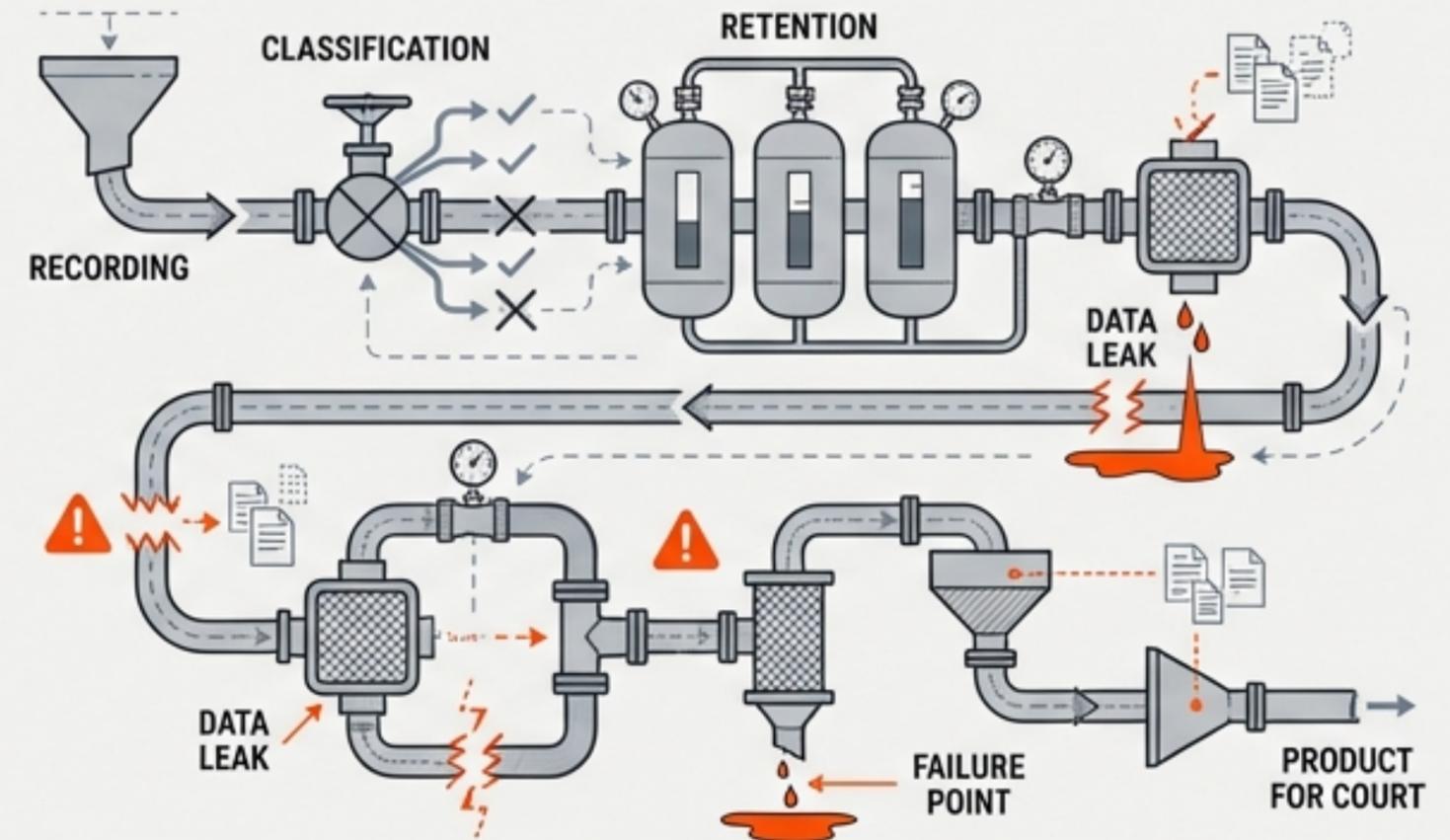
WORKFLOW, NOT WINDOW

THE MYTH: THE WINDOW



Public perception: Cameras are neutral eyes.

THE REALITY: THE PIPELINE



Legal reality: A manufactured product subject to management.

**IN COURT, A MISSING MINUTE IS NOT A NEUTRAL ABSENCE.
IT IS A CREDIBILITY VACUUM.**

THE PIPELINE IS LEAKING



Source: NYC Comptroller's Audit on NYPD Body-Worn Cameras.

THE FIVE PILLARS OF PROOF

To trust the video, you must verify the lifecycle.



Pillar 1: Existence Proof

The Audit Reality:
36% of incidents had had **no footage** on file.



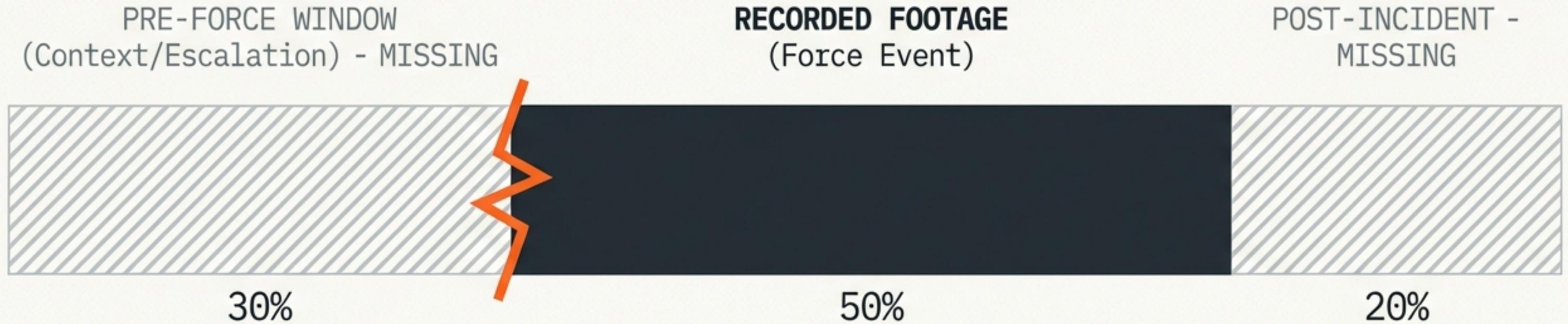
The Integrity Artifact (Demand):

Do not ask "Is there video?"

Ask for CAD Dispatch Logs & Unit Assignment Sheets. Match the assignment to the artifact.

Source: NYC Comptroller's Audit on NYPD Body-Worn Cameras

Pillar 2: Continuity Proof

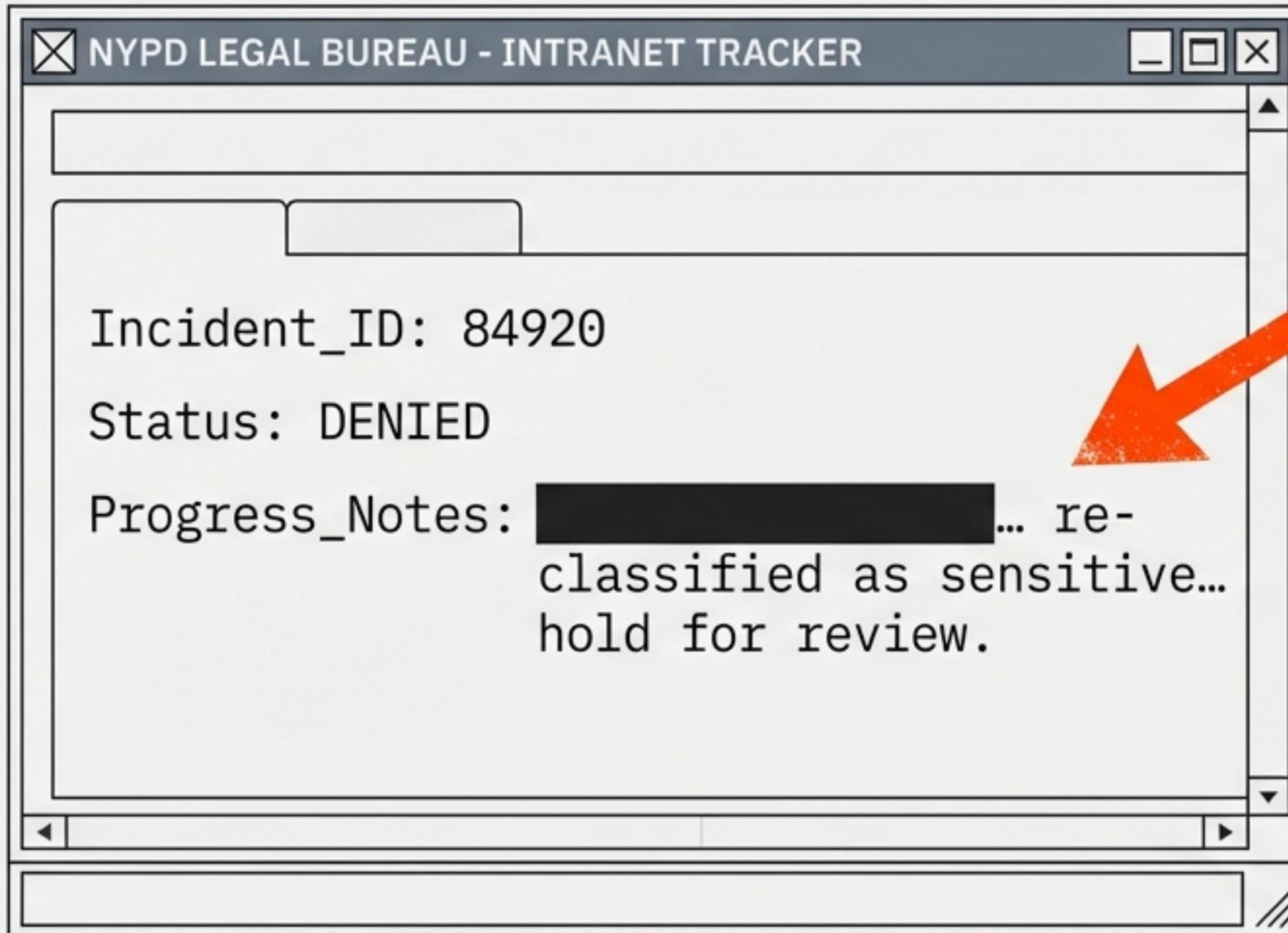


The Audit Reality: 18% of videos have late starts or early stops.

The Demand: Start/End
Metadata & Activation Logs.

“A video that starts mid-struggle is a narrative, not evidence.”

Pillar 3: Handling Proof



NYPD LEGAL BUREAU - INTRANET TRACKER

Incident_ID: 84920

Status: DENIED

Progress_Notes: [REDACTED] ... re-classified as sensitive... hold for review.

An orange arrow points from the text 'The Hidden Workflow: Incident Info → Progress Notes → Categorization → Release/Denial.' to the 'Progress_Notes' field in the screenshot.

The Hidden Workflow:

Incident Info → Progress **Notes** → Categorization → Release/Denial.

The Demand:

Intranet Tracker **Logs** & Progress **Notes**.

Pillar 4: Oversight Proof

			
53% of self-inspections missing.			
			

The Question: Did the system check itself?

The Demand: Contemporaneous Self-Inspection Logs & Trend Analysis Reports.

Logic: Without proof of monitoring, a failure cannot be claimed as an “isolated malfunction”.

Pillar 5: Consequence Proof



Monitor's Warning: Training without discipline is ineffective. It is merely coaching."

The Demand: Disciplinary Records & Corrective Action Logs.

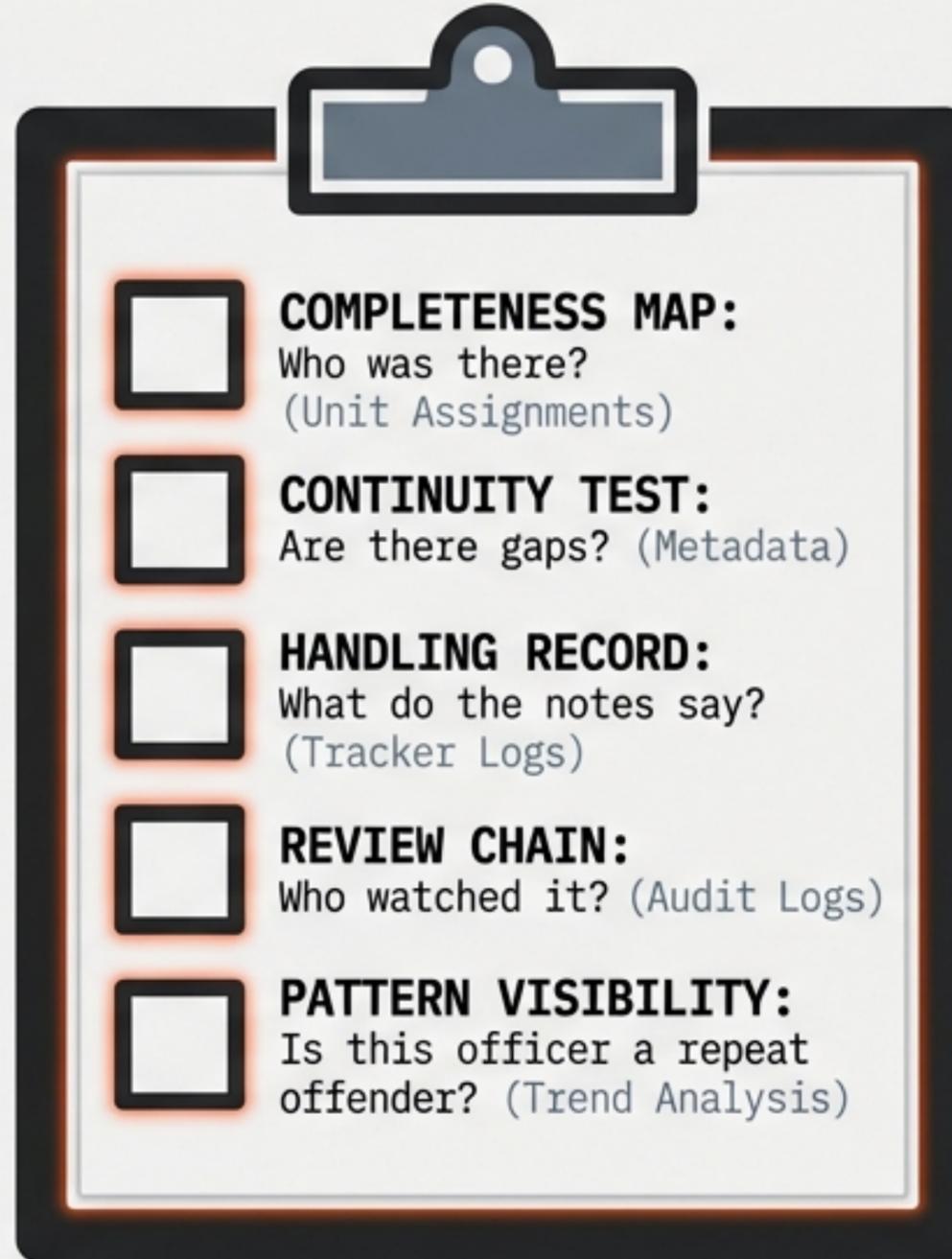
Transparency by Escalation



The FOIL Mirror: The system creates “**Conditional Transparency**”. You only get the truth if you have the **resources to fight for it**.

The Integrity-First Discovery Protocol

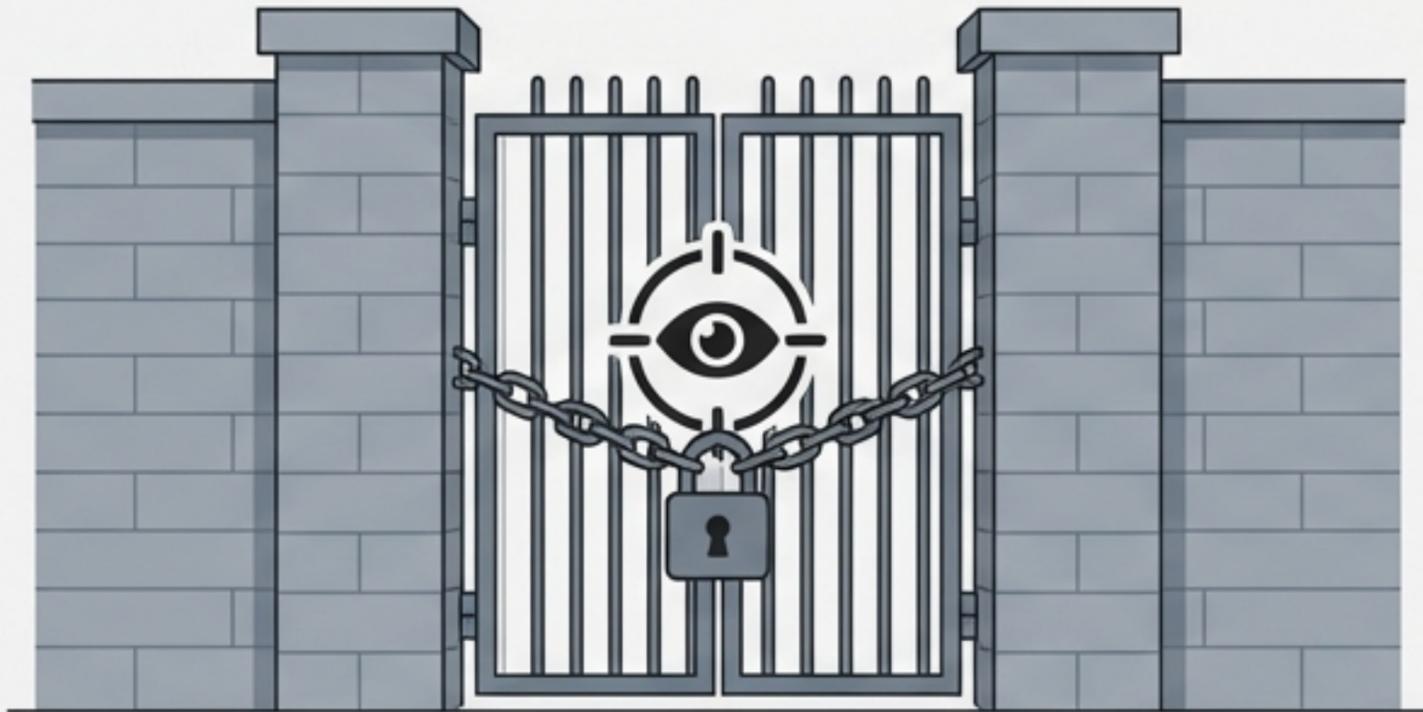
Stop demanding "The Video." Start demanding "The Record System."



From Gatekeeping to Governance

Before and After

CURRENT STATE



Tracking restricts access.

FUTURE STATE



Tracking ensures compliance.

Key Reforms List

- Mandatory Artifacts: **Automatic logs**, not discretionary tasks.
- Scalable Trends: Routine reporting on **activation failures**.
- Independent Triggers: **Force Reports (TRI) auto-trigger** video review.

The Credibility Trap



Shift the burden: Replace "Trust Us" with "Here is the Chain".

The One-Minute Test

Does the recording cover the full Pre-Force Window?

RESULT: NARRATIVE, NOT TRANSPARENCY.

Can you produce the internal handling logs?

RESULT: BROKEN CHAIN OF CUSTODY.

If the answer is “We can’t tell,” the system is failing.

Legitimacy Lives in the Audit Trail



**The question is not
“Do you have cameras?”
The question is “Can you
prove the record?”**

Demand the pipeline, not just the product.