



City of Arts & Innovation

City Council Memorandum

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TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: JANUARY 24, 2017

FROM: POLICE DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON THE RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT BODY-WORN
CAMERA PROGRAM**

ISSUE:

An overview of the Police Department's body-worn camera program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council receive and file the body-worn camera program report.

BACKGROUND:

On December 6, 2016 the Council approved the purchase of 200 Body-worn Cameras (BWC) with \$150,000 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, as well as matching City funds in the amount off \$150,000.

The total amount of \$300,000 will be used to purchase the BWC, training of personnel, IT needs and other related expenses.

DISCUSSION:

The Police Department conducted three different tests using 20 sworn volunteers to evaluate different vendors and camera functionality. The result of the tests recommended Coban Technologies be awarded the contract for the purchase of all related BWC and equipment. Coban currently supplies 110 in-car camera systems and the interview room recording system. All of the Department's videos are also managed by Coban Back Office software.

For the past year, the Department has been working with the management, the Riverside Police Officers Association, the Riverside Police Administrators Association, the City Attorney, and receiving input form the community on a revised policy that covers the recording of digital audio, the in-car system and the BWC system. Chief Diaz also presented the draft policy to the Citizen's Police Review Committee (CPRC) on December 14, 2016.

There were several significant changes to the prior policy, which include the mandated recording of dispatched calls for service. This was added because research has demonstrated the majority of officer complaints and use of force are the results of dispatched calls. Officers are mandated to review any audio or video recordings prior to writing their police report, except in cases of critical incidents such as officer involved deaths (OID). In the case of an OID, the involved officer will

provide detectives with a complete statement prior to reviewing any available recordings. This statement will go well beyond the Public Safety Statement given at the scene of an incident. Once investigators start to ask questions, the involved officer will have the opportunity to review available recordings.

All sworn personnel will receive training on the new policy, how to use the BWC, importance of reviewing any available recordings, and expectations of personnel and investigators involved in an OI.

The BWC system is the latest technology and allows officers to review and upload videos from their police units. These functions save the officers a considerable amount of time as they do not have to bring the cameras into the station and manually upload them from a desktop.

We are anticipating the BWC program will be operational in the late first quarter of 2017. This estimate is contingent on delivery of the equipment and thorough training of our personnel.

All recordings will be considered “investigative” and not subject to Public Records Act requests. The Chief, however, does have the authority to release any audio or video recording deemed to be in the best interest of the Department.

The CPRC will receive virtually all recordings as part of their investigations. To protect the dignity of persons who have died, the Department will not release depictions of a dying person at the moment of death. In order to comply with state law and to safeguard the dignity of victims, the Department will not release recordings that could lead to the identity of the victims of sexual crimes and domestic violence.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no additional fiscal impact to the general fund.

Prepared by: Sergio G. Diaz, Chief of Police
Certified as to availability of funds: Scott G. Miller, Ph.D., Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Guess, City Attorney

Attachment: Presentation