

Police Body Cameras



West Valley City Police Department
Council Presentation

November 25, 2014

Body-worn Cameras – Public Accountability...



Body-Worn Cameras



- ❖ **Accountability and transparency**
 - ✓ More transparent to public
 - ✓ Increases officer professionalism
 - ✓ Deescalating effect upon both officer and citizen
 - ✓ Reduce citizen complaints & Use of Force
 - ✓ Helps agencies evaluate and improve officer performance
 - ✓ Allows agencies to identify and correct larger structural problems within the department
 - ✓ Results in fewer complaints
 - ✓ Officer involved shootings – captures in real time the event from the perspective of the officer.



Body-Worn Cameras



❖ Identifying and correcting problems

- Video from these cameras can be used to spot internal agency problems
 - Useful tool to assisting in improving officer performance
 - Useful in countering accusations of racial profiling, Police Misconduct and other unconstitutional conduct
 - Can be used to demonstrate improvements
 - Arising from previous scandals.
 - Changes in Departmental philosophy
 - Customer service

❖ Recordings can improve the public trust & confidence.



Body-Worn Cameras



- ❖ Evidence Documentation
 - Videotape victim statements
 - Assists in increasing prosecutorial success because suspects who are confronted with footage from the body-worn cameras more frequently enter guilty pleas or accept plea deals.
 - Reduce time and cost associated with prosecution
 - Affirm officer integrity
 - Crime scene accuracy
 - A body-worn camera can capture minute details of a crime scene that even the most conscientious officer may not remember to include in his or her report.



Body-Worn Cameras

❖ Retention and GRAMA issues

- Video will be automatically uploaded, catalogued and retained consistent with GRAMA regulations
- Private and protected classifications for:
 - Clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - Medical conditions
 - Juveniles
 - Interference with ongoing investigation
 - Could reveal a source (CI, witness) not generally known outside of government.
 - Techniques and tactics



Body-Worn Cameras

- ❖ Current platforms have the ability to record throughout a normal operational periods but the question as to whether or not officers will be required to record an entire tour; every encounter; or whether some types of encounters be discretionary or even prohibited is yet to be determined.
 - ACLU urges mandatory recording of everything – with exceptions.
 - Agency must decide whether or not officer can review video in incidents he or she is involved in prior to making a statement.
- ❖ **Cost – Expensive**
 - Equipment, servers, storage, technology infrastructure – all are additional costs that must be factored into the equation.
- ❖ **Community support – There appears to be national and local agreement supporting the equipping of body cams to police officers.**
- ❖ **Secondary employment considerations**
 - Mandate or not?



Chest/Body mount



Head mounted



Body-Worn Cameras



❖ *Policy Considerations*

- Basic camera usage
 - Who will wear cameras? Where will they be placed on the body?
Rules for daily use?
 - All sworn personnel & limited civilian staff
 - Head mounted
 - Policy & familiarity training
- Maintenance
 - Identify the maintenance team; Outline rules from charging, checking operability, upload/download
- Recording protocols
 - Establish when to activate and when to turn off;
 - Establish circumstances mandating recording; In what circumstances is it prohibited?
 - *If officer discretion is allowed in recording – specify the limits of any such discretion!*
- Documenting chain of custody
- Retention
- Process and guidelines for reviewing data
- Releasing recorded data
- Control of data



Body-Worn Cameras



- ▶ Recommendations
 - Head mounted platform – *“It sees what the user sees.”*
 - Affords eye protection – *Consistent with current training*
 - Video Buffering
 - Real-time user verification
 - Quality low light recording capability
 - Hi-resolution video recording
 - Flexible mounting platform
 - Integrated RMS feature allowing seamless and consistent uploading and tagging of video
 - Cloud-based storage
 - Ability to recover deleted video
 - Tiered user/administrator access
 - Updating & Warranty
 - Vendor stability

- ▶ Product recommendation: Taser Axon via “sole source”
 - Highlights
 - Meets all identified recommendations & concerns
 - Refresh @ 2 yr. & 5 yrs.
 - Complete replacement warranty





Questions?