

FY 2015-16 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

CDFA #16.738

South Salt Lake Police Department Body Worn Camera Project II

Program Narrative

South Salt Lake Police Department Body Worn Camera Project II

In consideration of integrating previously authorized purpose areas for the Byrne Memorial State and Local Assistance Program, the South Salt Lake Police Department is defining this project within the purpose project area of:

1. Law Enforcement Programs

Introduction to South Salt Lake:

The City of South Salt Lake is utilizing the principles of Collective Impact¹ along with best and evidence-based practices from US Dept. of Justice, BJA, COPS, OJJDP, and the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (SAMHSA) to greatly improve the safety and quality of life of the City's residents, and particularly, the young people. The City, with support from public and private partners, has developed a plan, *Promise South Salt Lake*², which includes: support for the continuation of a robust downward trend in overall crime and youth crime, a city revitalization strategy to stabilize housing stock, creation of plans for transit-oriented developments, activities and resources to improve workforce and small business development, and implementation of a plan to strengthen education and youth outcomes.

Established in 1938, the City of South Salt Lake is located directly south of Salt Lake City. South Salt Lake occupies a land area of seven square miles and is home to a population of 24,702³, of which approximately 6,000 are under the age of 18, living in 8,462 households. South Salt Lake experiences some tremendous challenges, including having the lowest average household income in the state for cities over 20,000 pop. (over 45% of families have less than \$35K household income) and a poverty rate of 29.5% (the vast majority of whom are children, as

¹ Stanford Social Innovation Review, Kania, John and Kramer, Mark, Published Winter 2011

² <http://www.southsaltlakecity.com/department-listings/promise-so-salt-lake>

³ 2010 US Census

the free and reduced lunch rate in SSL averages 92%). Just over 27.8% of our population is foreign-born, and 32.4% speak languages other than English at home. Many of Utah's more than 1,000 newly arriving refugees are settled here, making up approx. 6% of the total population. Sixty-one percent of available housing is rental property. The city expands by additional 35,208 individuals that come into South Salt Lake as a daytime workforce, in the commercial, industrial, and government sectors. Since our city is a regional hub for government services, utilities, and rail freight, many of the largest employers, and about 29% of the City's land, are tax-exempt.

Need:

Over the past few years, we have recognized the need to apply video technology, which has recently greatly improved. As with police departments across the country, South Salt Lake Police Department has made it a priority to focus on better ways to protect our officers and potential evidence.

We have some in-car video systems, but each time the officer steps away from his/her patrol vehicle, it results in lost opportunities for adjudication of violations, and potentially creates “he-said, she-said” situations that would have permitted the department to protect good officers while identifying those who need discipline or additional training. In continued efforts to improve the accuracy and retention of evidence, the South Salt Lake Police Department is seeking to outfit officers with body worn cameras.

Proposal for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funds:

South Salt Lake Police Department is seeking \$27,963 in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice funds to pay for a one-time set up fee (for the server) of \$3,700 and purchase 21 (twenty) wearable body cameras \$1,185@. The cameras the SSLPD intends to purchase are Panasonic Wearable Cameras—with varying cable lengths. The estimated cost for each camera unit is \$1,260.27, for a total of \$23,945.13. JAG funds will pay \$27,963 of the available of this expense. SSLPD will utilize other general fund dollars to pay the overage approximated at \$622.

The goals of the project are to:

- 1) Increase officer accountability,
- 2) Improved customer service, and
- 3) Increase efficiency and positivity of community interactions.

Strategies to achieve the goals include: retention of video evidence of incident/high-intensity interaction, collaborate with prosecutors to increase rates of prosecution/adjudication, and use video evidence to verify officer accounts and statements.

Rationale for the body worn cameras includes:

(1) Officers who utilize body worn cameras are apt to be more careful, leading to more courteous behavior (A skeptic may say that you will get more honesty out of reports, as officers know that their actions and words are being recorded and can be independently reviewed);

(2) Citizens who know they will be recorded may be better behaved and have more incentive to tell the truth (It is common for DV victims, for instance, to say that an officer is making up what is written in a report);

(3) Evidence from body worn cameras back up officers' accounts of situations - cutting off superfluous complaints by citizens before they become claims;

(4) In cases of officer misconduct, body cameras provide excellent evidence to support disciplinary decisions by supervisors (and similarly support civil lawsuits); and

(5) Body worn cameras provide an opportunity for supervisors/judges/juries to see the situation as the officer saw it - such evidence is helpful in prosecution for assault on an officer or interfering with an arresting officer.

Project Data Collection Plan

Project Goal: Increase officer accountability through the use of body worn cameras

Measurable Objective 1: Utilize body worn camera footage as evidence in adjudication. We will track the number of times that WBC footage is used as evidence in our local justice court.

FY 2016		July - Sept 2015	Oct - Dec 2015	Jan - March 2016	April - June 2016	FY 2016 Total
	FY 2016 Targets	2	2	2	2	8
	FY 2016 Actual					

- Details: All requests for camera footage from the District Attorney’s Office will be submitted via GRAMA request. When the request is received, it will be documented on a tracking spreadsheet, which will be saved on the shared network. The City Attorney’s Office will have access to view the camera footage themselves when needed, so when footage is needed for court cases in our City justice court, the Attorney’s Office employee who is accessing the footage will be required to document that on the tracking spreadsheet as well. The software program used for the cameras stores information regarding who has viewed any camera footage, so the Police Department will periodically compare that information to the tracking spreadsheet to ensure entries have been made each time the City Attorney’s Office uses footage. Because the adjudication process happens outside of the Police Department, and we are not always informed of the outcome of court proceedings, it will be difficult to identify exactly how often body camera footage is used for adjudication. However, we will document when the footage is requested for use in court proceedings.

Measurable Objective 2: Deliver training regarding proper body worn camera use, evidence gathering and retainment

FY 2016 Totals		July - Sept 2015	Oct - Dec 2015	Jan - March 2016	April - June 2016	FY 2016 Total
	FY 2016 Targets	1	1	1	1	4
	FY 2016 Actual					

- Details: A policy will be formulated and distributed to all officers to read, and sign to indicate comprehension. An in-service training will then be held to train officers in proper body camera use, data transfer and storage, care, and policy standards. Once cameras have been issued and are in use, quarterly training and policy review will happen via the required Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins that every employee is required to complete. Additional in-service training will be conducted as changes in equipment or usage occur, as well as for continued proficiency refreshers.

Measurable Objective 3: Ensure that all 6 officers wear body cameras at all times according to the (soon to be adopted) SSLPD policy. Target =0 violations per quarter

FY 2015 Totals		July - Sept 2015	Oct - Dec 2015	Jan - March 2016	April - June 2016	FY 2016 Total
	FY 2016 Targets	0	0	0	0	0
	FY 2016 Actual					

- Details: Officers will wear body cameras during the regular course of their duties, with the exception of certain sensitive situations where the presence of the body camera could cause undue stress – for example, when interacting with a victim of violent crime, who could potentially feel additionally exposed and vulnerable by the presence of the body camera. Policy will be created to outline in detail when the cameras will be worn, and under what circumstances they can be removed.

The South Salt Lake Police Department agrees to comply with all post-award programmatic and financial reporting requirements of the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, including those consistent with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. The South Salt Lake Police Department has no other applications pending that would fund the identified 21 cameras, however, in an effort to amass enough body worn cameras to outfit the SSLPD, the SSLPD prior year Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from FY14 is purchasing 19 additional cameras, and State assets forfeiture funds will fund 6 body worn cameras.