

Memorandum

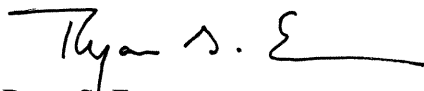


DATE: January 10, 2014

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Digital Video Recording Program Body Worn Cameras**

Attached is the briefing material on the “Digital Video Recording Program Body Worn Cameras” to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, January 13, 2014.



Ryan S. Evans
Interim First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, Interim City Manager
Warren M. S. Ernst, City Attorney
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Jill A. Jordan, P. E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager
Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Frank Libro, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor and Council



Digital Video Recording Program

Body Worn Cameras

Public Safety Committee

January 13, 2014



www.dallaspolice.net

Purpose

- To increase department transparency, officer accountability, and build on the public's trust and confidence in the police department.
- To provide accurate documentation of encounters involving officers during the performance of their duties.
- Protect officers from false allegations.

Definitions

- Body worn camera (BWC) system is a camera that is affixed to an officer's uniform that can record audio and video of the event. BWCs are independent of the in-car camera system.
- In-car camera system is a audio/video recording system permanently mounted within a marked squad car; this system is currently in use.

Body Worn Camera System



Field Testing

- The department has 50 BWCs that are currently deployed to patrol stations to evaluate their utility and benefit.
- BWC systems go beyond the capabilities of the in-car system by recording audio and video of events that occur out of view of the in-car camera system.

Field Testing

- Officers are required to record enforcement actions and response to certain types of offenses such as but not limited to:
 - Family Violence calls
 - “In progress” emergency calls
 - Traffic/Pedestrian Stops
 - DWI enforcement
- Officers are prohibited from recording situations where there is an expectation of privacy such as:
 - Restrooms and locker rooms
 - Hospitals and doctor’s office
 - Work related activities such as meetings, details and administrative investigations

Field Testing

- Once a recording is made, the officer will not be able to edit or delete the recording.
- Recordings are retained for a minimum of 90 days unless flagged for future use, such as further investigation and prosecution.

Benefits

- Provide reporting, evidence collection and court room testimony.
- Enhance the ability to obtain convictions of criminal offenses and increase the number of guilty pleas prior to going to trial.
- Protect officers from false allegations.
- Deter violence or other negative behavior by a suspect who may otherwise choose to assault a victim or an officer.

Next Steps

- In addition to evaluating the 50 VieVu brand BWCs; the department has drafted a Request for Proposal (RFP) so that other camera vendors will provide cameras for evaluation.
- Evaluation will continue for approximately 6 months; BWCs will be rotated throughout various uniform assignments (Patrol, SWAT, Metro, Narcotics and Gang).
- After the evaluation period, a BWC system will be selected and deployed as funding becomes available.

Estimated System Cost

- The department's body camera program will ultimately be a multi-year program that will equip approximately 2,500 uniformed officers.
- BWC vendor prices per unit vary and are dependent on if a camera system is purchased as a stand alone device or as part of a multi-year agreement.
- Estimated equipment cost.
 - Varies from \$750 - \$4,700* per unit.

*The \$4,700 per unit cost is based on a 5 year service agreement with one vendor.

Summary

- ENHANCEMENT:
 - Prosecution of offenses
 - Officer safety
 - Officer training
 - Enhanced public confidence



Questions?