Date: December 5, 2014
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager
From: Robert G. Luna, Chief of Police
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: BODY CAMERA PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

The Police Department has been reviewing the implementation of body cameras for field use since February 2014. Although a firm implementation date has not been determined, a pilot program is planned to begin in 2015.

Many law enforcement agencies around the country have started equipping their field officers with body worn cameras. The cameras are believed to enhance transparency, build community trust, and underscore law enforcement accountability by using video to better document police interactions with the public. Many agencies have reported positive measurable results, including a decrease in both citizen complaints and use of force incidents.

A review committee comprised of City staff has been working to address many key considerations including equipment, technology, policy, finance, research, and investigations. The review has included a study of best practices, product demonstrations, policy review, and site visits. We have identified infrastructure needs, public privacy issues, records retention and data storage concerns. Next steps include the formal bid process for equipment and data management services to establish costs and a staffing forecast to determine how new duties will be handled, such as the preparation of video evidence for criminal prosecution and processing public record act requests. The Police Department will also explore the possibility of a partnership with CSULB for assistance with academic research to help evaluate the pilot program results.

Please direct any questions to me or my Chief of Staff, Commander Lisa Lopez, at extension 8-7301.

RGL:LL
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