



Date: April 19, 2019  
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*  
From: Robert G. Luna, Chief of Police *R. Luna*  
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Subject: **Police Department Body Worn Camera Midpoint Update**

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At its May 15, 2018 meeting, the City Council approved a contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc., for a one-year Body Worn Camera (BWC) pilot project for the Long Beach Police Department (PD). The contract includes options for three, six-month extensions. This memorandum provides a midpoint update on the pilot program as requested by the City Council.

### **CURRENT DEPLOYMENT**

In August 2018, PD, with the assistance of the Technology and Innovation Department (TI), initiated Phase I of the BWC deployment in two patrol divisions. Presently, 200 plus cameras have been deployed to patrol officers in the North and South Divisions. Though no contract costs are incurred during the one-year trial period, which expires in June 2019, there have been significant expenses associated with infrastructure implementation and personnel costs totaling \$429,000. Initial one-time infrastructure costs have been borne between PD and TI, while personnel costs have been absorbed internally by PD. To date, the experience with this manufacturer has been positive and it is expected that an expanded deployment will be equally seamless.

### **NEXT STEPS**

As the one-year trial period comes to an end, PD recommends implementation of BWC technology to the remaining Patrol Divisions and non-General Fund field operation contract services groups. While expansion is planned to include contract service groups such as Airport, Port, Long Beach Transit, and Long Beach City College, deployment to these operations may take time to finalize cost sharing and infrastructure details before implementation. The proposed expansion would extend BWC coverage to all four geographic patrol divisions including field support operations consisting of Traffic Motors and K9 Units. PD estimates the BWC deployment described will total approximately 875 BWC cameras inclusive of the existing 200+ currently deployed. This does not forecast future growth in sworn personnel.

#### Implementation Costs

The proposed program consists of Axon BWC, a redaction support contract, the necessary PD and TI personnel staff, and one-time infrastructure upgrades and overtime costs associated with training the officers. The ongoing costs of the contract, redaction and personnel are estimated to total \$2.0 million annually for a five-year contract. In year one, a one-time cost of \$718,000 will be incurred for the purchase of the cameras and docks. In addition, approximately \$640,000 would need to be allocated in one-time FY 19 costs for necessary infrastructure enhancements and training needs at the targeted divisions.

The personnel component of the request consists of a permanent enhancement of 10 positions (9.0 civilian FTEs) in PD and (1.0 civilian FTE) in TI. The additional personnel are required to offset impacts to staff operations spent responding to requests, searching, reviewing, and redacting records pertaining to BWC footage. Estimated annual costs for these positions, as well as a redaction support contract, is approximately \$1.1 million (of the 2.0 million) in year one. Personnel costs are anticipated to increase over time due to the natural rise of personnel costs over the five-year contract period.

It is necessary to get the staff onboard as soon as possible to address the steady increase in California Public Records Act (PRA) requests resulting from recent legislation, Senate Bill 1421 (SB 1421) and Assembly Bill 748 (AB 748) passed to increase police transparency, both effective in 2019. Both bills have a significant impact on the ability to successfully support and maintain a BWC program and associated costs; particularly AB 748 with the requirement that all video related to critical incidents, as defined, be publicly released beginning July 1, 2019, under a PRA request within 45 calendar days with limited exception. Given these state mandates, we will be bringing on staffing in FY 19 to comply and requesting structural positions in the FY 20 Budget.

Operationally, PD currently has only two FTEs to handle all PRA requests. This team has been struggling with the increase in requests. Resources and time spent addressing the backlog of work from increased PRA requests will only be exacerbated with SB 1421 and AB 748. It is anticipated the expected increase in PRA requests, in addition to recent changes in PRA law, will easily exceed the current staffing capabilities of the Department. Failure to meet the new state mandate could result in significant legal liability to the City and loss of community trust in the Department.

The City may consider expansion of the program beyond the Divisions listed above subject to availability of funding. Consideration will be made toward expansion to the Investigations Bureau and other details staffed primarily on overtime, such as Special Events and Metro.

## **CONCLUSION**

The BWC deployment in North and South Divisions has been a step toward increased departmental transparency, as well as enhanced support for the safety of our residents and employees. Preliminary data indicates great success in capturing video of critical incidents and the program is fully expected to serve as a promising risk management tool. Adoption and implementation of a BWC program as proposed above is, therefore, recommended at the end of the one-year pilot. Should competing financial priorities work against implementation beginning FY 20, exercising the available renewal option for an additional six-month period in the existing one-year pilot program contract is recommended to maintain program continuity.

If you have any questions, please contact me or my Chief of Staff Commander Erik Herzog, at (562) 570-7301.

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