



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#16-1407

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: November 15, 2016

TITLE: Police Body Worn Camera Pilot Program

Bobcat Training and Consulting, Inc. recommends all sworn personnel should be issued body cameras and required to record all citizen encounters. In addition, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and several cities across America conducted independent studies that indicate body worn cameras have the potential to improve officer safety, officer professionalism, evidence preservation and transparency while also reducing frivolous misconduct complaints and lawsuits. Body worn cameras (BWC) are capable of recording video and audio while worn by officers in the field, which allows unprecedented documentation of police and civilian encounters. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department policy has been informed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and PERF comments and model policy recommendations.

Key to a successful implementation and the on-going use of body worn cameras is an agency's Body Worn Camera Policy. The purpose of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department policy is to provide law enforcement personnel participating in the Body Worn Camera Pilot Program with guidelines for the use, management, storage, and retrieval of audio-visual media recorded by body worn camera systems. The use of body worn cameras may increase the ability of participants to effectively enforce the law, obtain evidence for criminal prosecutions, protect participants from false allegations of misconduct, document interactions with the public, and increase Departmental transparency. The department has provided copies to the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations, the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, Broward County Urban League, Broward Dream Defenders and the City's Citizens Police Review Board. The policy is attached and presented for City Commission review and comment as well as further public review.

Additionally, on November 4, 2016, the City received nine (9) responses to its solicitation for vendors for the Body Worn Camera Pilot Program. A review of those proposals will be commencing shortly.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Public Safety Cylinders of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 9: Be the safest urban coastal City in South Florida through preventative and responsive police and fire protection.
- Objective 1: Prevent and solve crime in all neighborhoods.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community*.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Body Worn Camera Policy showing tracked changes

Exhibit 2 – American Civil Liberties Union of Florida Recommendations

Prepared by: Michael Gregory, Assistant Police Chief

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