

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

September 29, 2020

1.0

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL MOTION (FILE NO. 14-1738-S2)
BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM EXPANSION

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) APPROVE and TRANSMIT to the Mayor and City Council the Department's Report on Body-Worn Camera Program Expansion.

DISCUSSION

Los Angeles City Council (Council) Motion (Harris-Dawson - Koretz - Bonin), File No. 14-1738-S2, directed the Department to report on the associated cost of equipping all sworn personnel with Body-Worn Cameras (BWC). As such, the following analysis was completed by Information Technology Bureau to provide information to the Council as it explores expanding the existing BWC program.

In 2014, Mayor Eric Garcetti, members of the Council, Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners, and the Department committed to equipping all sworn field personnel with BWCs. The BWC program has since operated successfully for several years and the equipment is carried daily by approximately 7,000 employees, recording and documenting events such as public contacts, investigations, arrestee transportations, pursuits, uses of force, etc.

This technology has proven to be a critical tool for Department personnel in both criminal and administrative investigations, and equally important, has become a valuable resource in building confidence through accountability and transparency. Expanding the BWC program as explored by the Council would further advance the City's commitment to a professional, efficient, accountable and transparent police department.

For all sworn employees to be issued a BWC with needed corresponding cellular devices that are used to view video, complete administrative labeling of videos, and to access the operating system of the cameras, an additional 2,645 BWCs and 3,000 cellular telephones will be required. The six-year period in the cost estimate corresponds with the Department's current contracts and pending extensions to ensure the equipment and licensing are fully supported. Based on proposals from the Department's existing vendors, Axon Enterprise and AT&T, the six-year cost of expanding the BWC program would total \$24,942,280, or an annual average of \$4,157,047.

The table below provide cost details for the proposed expanded program on an annual basis:

EXPANDED BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM						
Line Item	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
BWCs	4,841,357	2,259,095	2,259,095	2,259,095	2,259,095	2,259,095
Cellular Devices	1,557,990	1,277,160	1,632,990	1,352,160	1,632,990	1,352,160
Program Total	6,399,347	3,536,255	3,892,085	3,611,255	3,892,085	3,611,255

To offset a portion of the anticipated cost, the Department would apply for federal grants.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ BJA) has historically provided financial assistance through the *Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies* grant. The Department was awarded a \$710,000 matching grant through this program for 355 BWCs in Fiscal Year 2019/20. The awarded grant amount totaled \$710,000 over three years and is contingent on a 50 percent match requirement by the Department. The Fiscal Year 2020/21 grant, which is closed for new applications, capped the available amount to \$2,000 per BWC, but not to exceed \$2,000,000 for any single agency. It is unknown if the DOJ BJA will make funding available through the *Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies* grant in future years and what terms and conditions will be imposed.

The Justice in Policing Act of 2020 passed the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2020. It is unknown if the proposed legislation will be passed by the U.S. Senate and eventually enacted into law. However, Section 114, *Law Enforcement Grants*, Subsection (d)(3), *Oversight*, allows for unspecified grant funding towards “video monitoring technology.” If the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 becomes legislation and the Council supports the Department’s BWC expansion, the Department will apply for any available grants for which it qualifies.

Despite the significant cost associated with expanding the Department’s BWC program, the added value of such commitment to the City, Department, and community cannot be measured through a monetary cost.

The Department does not have a budget allocation for this new expenditure and would require complete corresponding funding should the City Council decide to adopt such measure.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Deputy Chief John McMahon, Commanding Officer, Information Technology Bureau, at (213) 486-0370.

Respectfully,



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

August 19, 2020

1.17

TO: Chief of Police

FROM: Commanding Officer, Information Technology Bureau

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Page 2

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If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Sergeant Robert Bean, Information Technology Bureau, at (213) 486-0370.


JOHN McMAHON, Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Information Technology Bureau