

Cherry Hill Police Department

BWC Program Narrative

Statement of the problem answers:

It is the policy of the Cherry Hill Police Department to equip each patrol vehicle with a mobile video recording system for the purpose of preserving an unbiased record of police-citizen interactions, in accordance with the law of the State of New Jersey (NJ ST 40A:14-118.1). Video captured by these recording devices can also be introduced as evidence of a traffic violation, or any criminal, D.U.I. (Driving under the Influence), or other arrest. It may also be used by supervision to ensure safe practices and compliance with Departmental Rules and Regulations.

This is our policy statement from our Patrol Car Camera Systems General Order which we began in 2004. The main problem is that if the incident does not occur directly in front of the patrol car you have no video, or if you are too far away from the patrol car you have no audio. This system is limited to the immediate area around the patrol vehicle. Our data from over ten years of usage has helped to dismiss allegations of police misconduct, provide a factual account for criminal proceedings and identified officer's weaknesses which can be addressed through training to make them more accountable and safer.

What we need to do is expand our video and audio capturing capabilities by implementing Body Worn Cameras (BWC) for all of our Operational personnel. By being able to capture all incidents we should be able to eliminate all "not sustained" internal affairs complaints and reduce our sustained cases by 50%. One of the most remarkable findings during our research and evaluation trials was that the camera which we selected has a visible screen to the public and when the citizen approached the officer and saw themselves on the screen, there was an immediate change in demeanor and behavior. Also noted during the evaluations were the officers modeling professional and polite behaviors.

Cherry Hill is a township in Camden County, New Jersey and has a population of 71,045 according to the 2010 U.S. Census, is approximately 24 square miles and is considered an edge city of Philadelphia, Pa. We are home to a diverse population and several multi-national corporations including Subaru of America, Pinnacle foods and TD Bank N.A.

Having a video and audio record of all citizen interactions will improve our transparency with the public. When all parties are aware that this record exists, everyone's behavior will ultimately improve. This has been seen in numerous trials held across the country. Another testament to the use of cameras is that our current Taser Conducted Energy Devices all have cameras and every use of this tool by the CHPD has been deemed justifiable by our Prosecutors office after incident review.

Currently an incident occurs; the police respond, perform some type of action and then write a report. Usually these reports are a condensed version of the major parts of the incident, their response and actions. Months later the prosecutor calls and sets up a meeting where the officer, at the urging of the prosecutor fills in the details necessary for them to secure a conviction. With the advent of BWC the prosecutor would get a report along with an audio and video of the entire incident from initial police response to final closing details. All of these transactions could be done electronically as we currently share our reports with them. After watching this Digital Media Evidence (DME) they would have everything they need up front to be able to make a determination on how to proceed with their prosecution.

Attached to this application is a letter from the Camden County Prosecutors Office attesting to our partnership in moving forward with a BWC program with their full support. We have reached out to several of our faith-based groups and our minority civic association and they have pledged their assistance in this collaborative effort to expand our existing in-car camera video program to include BWC.

In the State of New Jersey we have several different agencies that dictate record retention and what can be released to the public and when. OPRA (Open Public Record Act) sets a procedure to access public records and guides the police department in their release. DARM (Division Archives Record Management) sets the retention time periods for all public documents and materials. The New Jersey Attorney General recently commissioned a working group to study the issue of Body Worn Cameras and to make suggestions for upgrading OPRA and DARM to reflect the issues brought up by audio and video evidence collected by police to include privacy, juvenile, domestic violence and civil & victims' rights. Also our prosecutor's office has created a Standard Operating procedure for agencies to use as a template for creating their own policy. I have attached a copy of our draft BWC policy to this application.

Cherry Hill Police Department metrics include: 129 sworn full-time officers and 5 part-time sworn officers. Our number of officers with daily citizen interaction is 117 and our total implementation number is 125

Project Design and Implementation answers:

The goals and objectives for this project would be as follows:

Increase accountability and transparency:

Having a video/audio record of an incident or event will go much further than a written report when explaining police actions to the public.

Increase police professionalism and improve officer performance:

People behave better when they are on camera. In many of the BWC publications along with our own experience during the research and testing phase both the police and the citizens behaved better and acted more civil towards each other.

Decrease citizen complaints and use of force incidents:

Again people usually behave better when they know they are being video recorded.

Improve report writing and build stronger cases:

After the dust settles from an incident, officers will be able to review their video and improve their report writing with much more detail and accuracy.

Speed-up the adjudication of incidents by providing video evidence for prosecutors:

Prosecutors will have immediate access to audio/video after an incident to begin their preparation for prosecution.

Identification of training issues:

From supervision review to the prosecutors receipt and review for prosecution we can identify what methods and strategies work and which ones don't. We can then identify best practices and train everyone. For things that don't work we can identify specific officers and re-train them on strategies that have proven successful in the past.

The performance measures will include the comparison of data both pre and post BWC implementation. (I.e. citizen complaints, use of force, case closure, etc.) Also the number of new General Orders (policies) required for the BWC rollout, along with new training initiatives in support of BWC. Officer's semi-annual performance evaluations should also see improvement after the BWC rollout as compared to pre BWC.

The Cherry Hill Police Department (CHPD) fully intends to comply with the "COPS" Implementing a Body-Worn Camera Program. We are fortunate in that our Camden County Prosecutors office formed a focus group over a year ago using this specific document to make a template for any agencies wishing to implement a BWC program. We have implemented a Draft General Order (CHPD 15-02) using this template which encompasses all of the best practices noted in the "COPS" report. I will only highlight some of the most important as I feel our General Order covers all of the requisite details.

Officers shall activate the BWC to record all calls for service, motor vehicle stops, field interviews, investigative detentions, sobriety checkpoints and for any other action/incident where it is necessary or prudent to create a recording. If they are unsure they should record and if they

are asked or feel that it's not prudent to record they can stop recording as long as they articulate the reasoning on camera.

Regarding the storage policies the CHPD is guided by the New Jersey Division of Archives and Records Management (DARM) who set specific timelines for how long reports, video and audio recordings are kept and we will abide by these rules. The officers will be able to review their recording but will have no ability to edit them. Our Internal Affairs unit will be responsible for the release of any recording after all privacy issues have been met and in accordance with applicable Open Public Record Requests (OPRA) and court discovery requests. All records will become the property of CHPD.

The CHPD has been actively researching body cameras for over a year. During this time we have meet with countless community and religious groups and have solicited their input and feeling about a BWC program. All of these groups have pledged to support our efforts and will offer any assistance in helping to mold policy. While we were evaluating cameras our officers provided valuable feedback in helping us to narrow the field of products. Buy-in won't be a problem as we have a successful Car-Camera program for over 11 years and the officers are used to wearing a recorder the only difference with BWC is that now they will have video and audio as opposed to just audio.

The CHPD has not applied for any other BJA-BWC program.

Capabilities and Competencies:

CHPD is fully competent and capable of implementing this BWC project. I, (b)(7)c, (b)(6) (b)(7)c, (b)(6) have 35 years of police experience with over 15 years as an administrative department head. In my current position as commander of the Research and Planning Unit, I also oversee out Information Technology squad consisting of two highly technology trained police officers. We look at new products or technologies, do extensive research, field test and make recommendations to the command staff regarding their purchase. We also work in concert with the Township's I.T. department using a holistic approach. As an example our current storage for our in-car camera videos is a shared with the Township which takes up a lot of storage and slows down the entire server. We sat down with the Township Information Technology unit and mutually decided to purchase a new server for just Police videos, so we will store our In-car videos, interview room videos and our BWC videos on a new 80 terabyte mirrored by 80 terabyte server.

The R &P unit is also responsible for any new directives or General Orders that accompany any new product or technology we research and then implement. Our last three major projects were electronic ticketing in the cars (E-ticketing) 50 vehicle installations, Automated License Plate Readers(ALPR) installed a 4 camera system in four cars, and "Noptic": forward

looking infrared(FLIR) cameras in three vehicles. In each of the above mentioned technology implementations we have composed a new, or modified an existing General Order that governs their use.

During the 2014 calendar year we began preparations to launch our Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety program (DDACTS). We began with broad community outreach in an effort to educate them in the intricacies of the program and to gain their acceptance and support. The CHPD hired a civilian analyst to crunch the data and to identify where we needed to assign our personnel for maximum effectiveness. We officially kicked off the program 1/1/2015 and I can say that our initial efforts have been successful as targeted crime in the DDACTS zones have dropped.

CHPD has deployed the following technology projects:

- 1) 800 megahertz trunked radio system. (2000) we are currently in the process of designing a new system to replace the old one.
- 2) 911 Call Center Computerization (Twice) 2009 & 2015
- 3) CAD/RMS (2010)
- 4) Mobile Data Computers in patrol cars (2002)
- 5) In-Car video cameras (2004)
- 6) Noptic Forward Looking Infrared Cameras (2013)
- 7) E-Ticketing (2014)
- 8) Automated License Plate readers (2012)

As you can see by the list above we have undertaken numerous large technology implementations. We make a plan from start to finish identifying a timeline and each person's area of responsibility. Communication is the most critical part of the process so that everyone is on the same page working towards the same goal.

As far as stakeholder collaboration the CHPD has the full support of our Mayor and Council along with a letter of support from the Camden County Prosecutors office. We have a letter of support from one of our religious institutions and have met with our minority civic association who stands behind us in the BWC program.

Program Continuity:

We stand committed to this program. Besides the match amount of slightly over \$82,000.00 we are infusing a little over \$61,000.00 in storage costs utilizing Federal Forfeiture Funds. Once in place we can add an annual cost in our capital budget to begin a regular replacement/upgrade cycle.

Plan for collecting the data required for this solicitation’s performance measures:

In the data grantee provides section, our Professional Standards Unit (Internal Affairs) will compile and track the relevant categories. The Professional standards unit already has mechanisms in place to track many of these categories so it will be easy to compare the new data collected with past data. I will meet with the Commander of this unit to collaborate and prepare the proper reports for submission to comply with the requirements of the grant.

Categories 1 through 4: Priority Considerations:

The CHPD should receive priority consideration for meeting the requirements of number 1 and 3 as presented on page 9 of the solicitation.

Number 1 requires significant involvement of the local Prosecutor’s office. The Camden County Prosecutors office has worked with several local Police Departments who have already implemented a BWC program. They have developed a template for local policy adoption which we have used in our “draft” General Order regarding BWC. They have also provided a letter of support (attached) indicating their commitment to collaboration and guidance as needed or required.

Number 3 Technical Guidance of Procurement: We have prepared a document (attached) entitled “Operating Characteristics of the Reveal RS2-X2L. This is the camera that we have selected after our testing and evaluation period. This Reveal camera meets but mostly exceeds these eighteen (18) core operating characteristics. Although relatively new to the United States, Reveal is very big in Europe and Asia with many larger agencies such as the Hong Kong police adopting their BWC technology.

Closing Statement:

The Cherry Hill Police Department is a strong partner with our Federal law enforcement counterparts. The F.B.I., A.T.F. and the I.R.S. have local offices in our township with the D.E.A. located in the town next door. We have an officer assigned full-time to the D.E.A., along with a Detective assigned part-time to the I.R.S. We routinely house prisoners for these agencies temporarily in emergent situations. Most grants utilize crime data as part of the funding formula this penalizes police departments such as ours that does a good job of crime prevention and suppression. As you can see we have been sharing with our Federal Law Enforcement partners our manpower and resources and we hope that such a positive collaboration will result in a favorable Body-Worn Camera Grant Award.