



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo
Vice-Mayor Rose Herrera
Councilmember Raul Peralez
Councilmember Charles Jones

SUBJECT: SJPD BODY-WORN CAMERAS **DATE:** April 10, 2015

Approved <i>Rose Herrera MG</i>	Date <i>4-10-15</i>

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the status report on the implementation of the Body-Worn Cameras Pilot Program and direct the City Manager to:

1. Identify potential sources of funding for on-person cameras for SJPD officers, including grants from the U.S. Department of Justice that have been repeatedly utilized by other police departments and the State of California; and
2. Continue discussions with the San José Police Officers' Association (POA), through the meet and confer process, to implement the use of body-worn cameras.

DISCUSSION:

We are appreciative of San José Police Chief Larry Esquivel's openness to adopting this important technology.

In December 2014, President Obama proposed the Body-Worn Camera Partnership Program available through the Community Oriented Policing (COPS) program. The Obama administration aims to invest \$75 million through a 50% investment matching arrangement with states and localities to cover video storage and equipment expenses. The COPS program has established a goal of underwriting the costs of 50,000 body-worn cameras, and is part of a \$263 million initiative to strengthen community policing over three years. We encourage the City to apply for these resources and begin implementation.

Police departments in other cities throughout the world began experimenting with body-worn cameras as early as 2006. In both 2009 and 2012 the San José Police Department conducted its own pilot programs for the use of AXON body Cameras. Independent Police Auditor La Doris

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Cordell has since publicly urged the Department to move forward with full implementation and advocated for the federal resources to do so.

Three years ago, in January of 2012, then Councilmember Sam Liccardo sent a memorandum (attached and accessible at http://www3.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/CommitteeAgenda/Rules/20120208/rules20120208_i4a.pdf) urging a public report on the results of San José's 2009 pilot program, and an exploration of a full implementation strategy for this technology. That proposal was moved forward to the Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support Committee, but with the outcome being a study and pilot program.

Since that time, the use of this technology has become more widespread. The U.S. Department of Justice published a primer for departments to utilize for program implementation (<https://www.justnet.org/pdf/00-Body-Worn-Cameras-508.pdf>) and released its own recommendations and lessons learned on implementing a body-worn camera program (<http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/resources/472014912134715246869.pdf>).

Studies on body-worn camera programs have only confirmed the efficacy of this strategy. Rialto, California partnered with Cambridge University and AXON to study the body-worn cameras for its risk management department and found that they reduced public complaints against officers by 88% in one year. The Rialto study shows that these devices pay for themselves in less than one year based on litigation and complaint avoidance. A February 21, 2012 New York Times account described how a camera-wearing officer was cleared in an officer-involved shooting when the video revealed that he warned the suspect to drop his weapon nine times—likely saving the department millions of dollars in litigation costs, and possibly saving the officer's career. Operational costs for storing and retrieving video has been driven sharply downward with the continued development of secure, encrypted cloud and on-site data storage technology.

With dozens of police departments already demonstrating the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of this equipment, it's time for San José to move forward.