

Police Body Worn Cameras

The Fort Worth Experience

Sgt. Scott Sikes
Fort Worth Police Department
Fort Worth, Texas

Geography and Population

Total Land Area – 350 Square Miles

Mix of Urban, Suburban, and Rural

Resident Population – 781,000

Daily Population – 1.2 Million

Police Officers – 1550

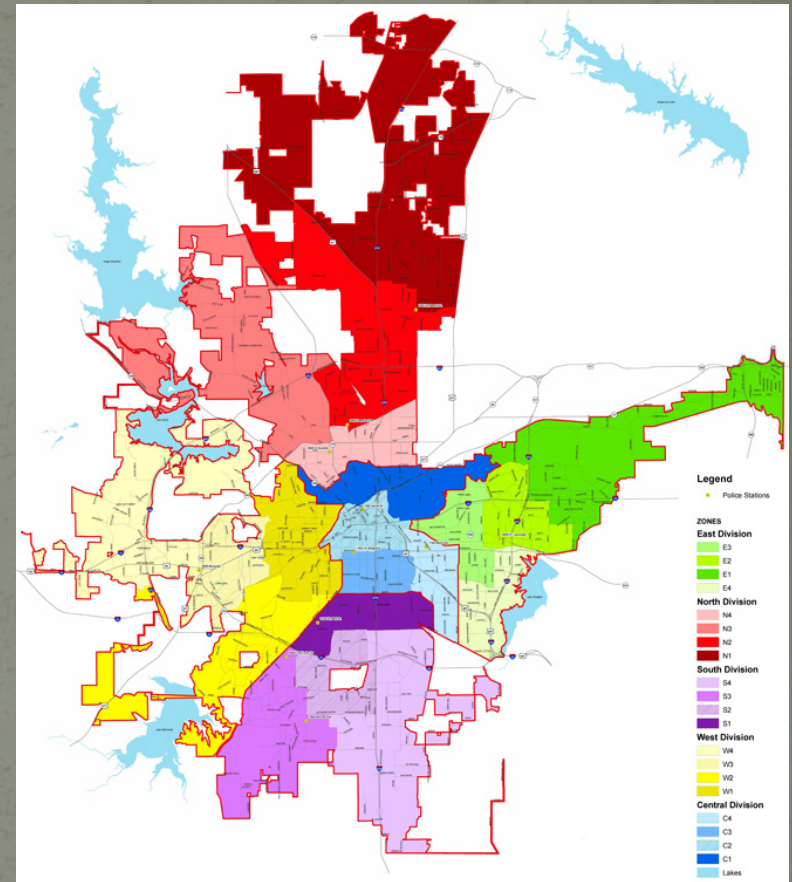
Front Line Police Positions – 980

Ratio - Approx. 2 Officers per 1000 Population



Fort Worth Police Department

Sworn Police Officers – 1550
Civilian Support Staff – 450
Patrol Shift – 4/10's
Currently 5 Patrol Divisions
Plans for 6th Division



Evolution of FWPD BWC Program

Fall 2010

Personally Owned Cameras Began to Appear
Command Staff Took Notice During Admin Reviews
Evidence Storage Issues
Quality Issues

Spring 2011

Began Test/Evaluation of Several Models
Limited Vendors/Products
Tested Viewu, Scorpion, VidMic, PocketCam, Axon Pro

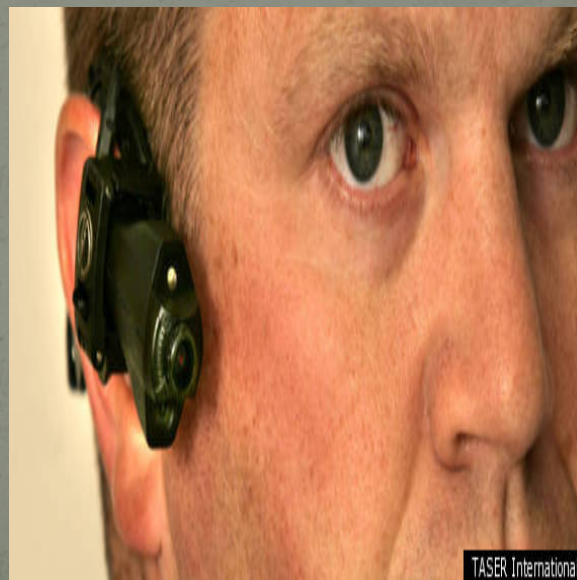
Evolution of FWPD BWC Program

Spring 2012

Began Extended T&E with Taser Axon Pro (50 Units)

Tested in Patrol and Traffic Division

Began Policy Development



Evolution of FWPD BWC Program

Summer 2012

Taser Axon Flex Released
Swapped Axon Pro Units
Continued T&E
Draft Policy Completed

Spring 2013

Began Purchase Process
of 145 Additional Units
Total of 195 Units



Evolution of FWPD BWC Program

2014 – Present

420 Additional Flex Units

Total of 615

Currently 320 Deployed

Goal – 600+ Deployed by EOY

Issued to All Recruit Classes



Deciding Factors

Established Relationship with Taser (CEWs)

Secure Video Capture and Storage

Turn Key Solution

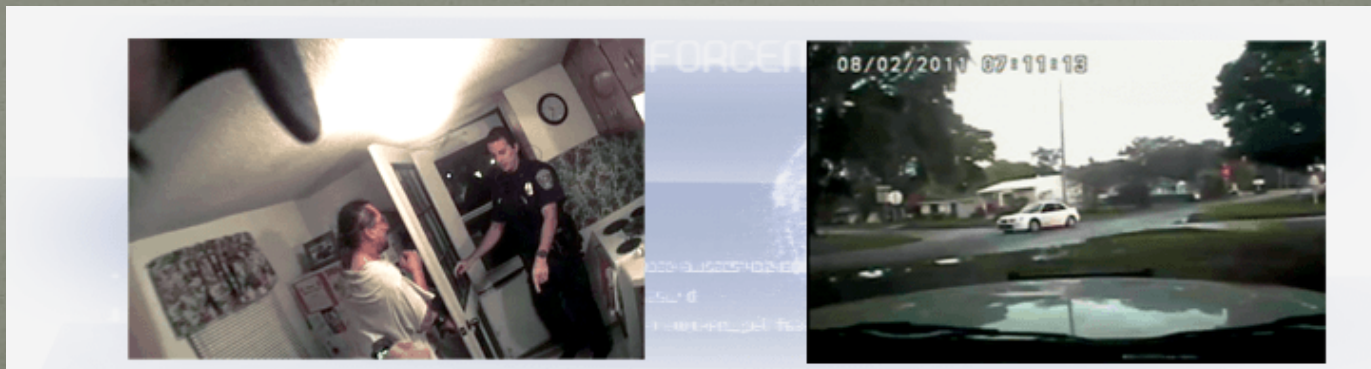
Wearability (Versatile Mount Options)

Eye-Level Point of View

Continual Updates/Improvements at Vendor Level

Benefits So Far...

- Provides Evidence from Officer's Point of View
- Gives Unbiased "Third Party" View of Scene
- Reduces Number of Citizen Complaints
- Reduces Work Flow for Storage of Digital Evidence
- Increase Accountability for All Involved
- Provides Documented Chain of Custody for All Evidence
- Increases Transparency with Community



Lessons Learned

Don't Settle

Test and Evaluation Period of Various Models
Intended End Users Must Be Involved
Honest Feedback/Evaluation is Critical

Involve All Stake Holders

Officers / Detectives / Supervisors
Prosecutors / Courts / Legal
Unions / Officer Associations
IT Staff

“Turn Key” Solution

Make Sure Vendor Can Meet All Needs
Cameras / Accessories / Warranties / Support

And Most Importantly....

Lessons Learned

...Storage

This Criminal Evidence is No Different than a Weapon,
Drugs, Fingerprints, Etc

We Control our Evidence Rooms with Access Controls,
Chain of Custody Tracking, and Audit Capabilities.

Make Sure Your Video Storage Solution is Just as Secure.



Evidence.Com Cloud Storage

Evidence.com Provides Secure Cloud Storage While Also Providing Access Controls, Chain of Custody Tracking, and Audit Abilities.

Officers Simply Dock the Camera and the Evidence is Uploaded Securely and Efficiently Without Officer Interaction.

Evidence.com Allows Agencies to Set and Manage Retentions Schedules by Evidence Type.

It Also Allows for Simplified Case and Evidence Sharing between Officers, Investigators, Prosecutors and Defense.



Policy Development

Involve ALL Stakeholders

End Users (Officers / Detectives / Supervisors)

Courts (Prosecutors / Local & State)

Legal

Police Unions /Associations

“Should” vs “Shall” vs “Shall Not”

Policy Needs to Be Clearly Written / Not Ambiguous

Must Delineate When Recording is Mandatory,

Prohibited or Left to Officer Discretion

Adaptability

Rapidly Evolving Technology Requires Flexibility in
Policy Management

Determine End Users

Front Line Officers

- Have the Most Contact with Citizens
- High Volume of Emergency Responses
- Typically Most Number of Critical Police Incidents

High Liability Risk Officers

- Tactical Teams (High Risk Operations)
- Officers with High Reported Use of Force / Complaints

New Officers / Recruits

- Higher Likelihood of Critical Incident Within 1st 5 Years
- Already Accustomed to Technology
- “Don’t Know Any Different”

Determine Support Staff

Training / Deployment

Involve Respected Members of the End User Population
Must be Able to Gather “Buy In” From Users

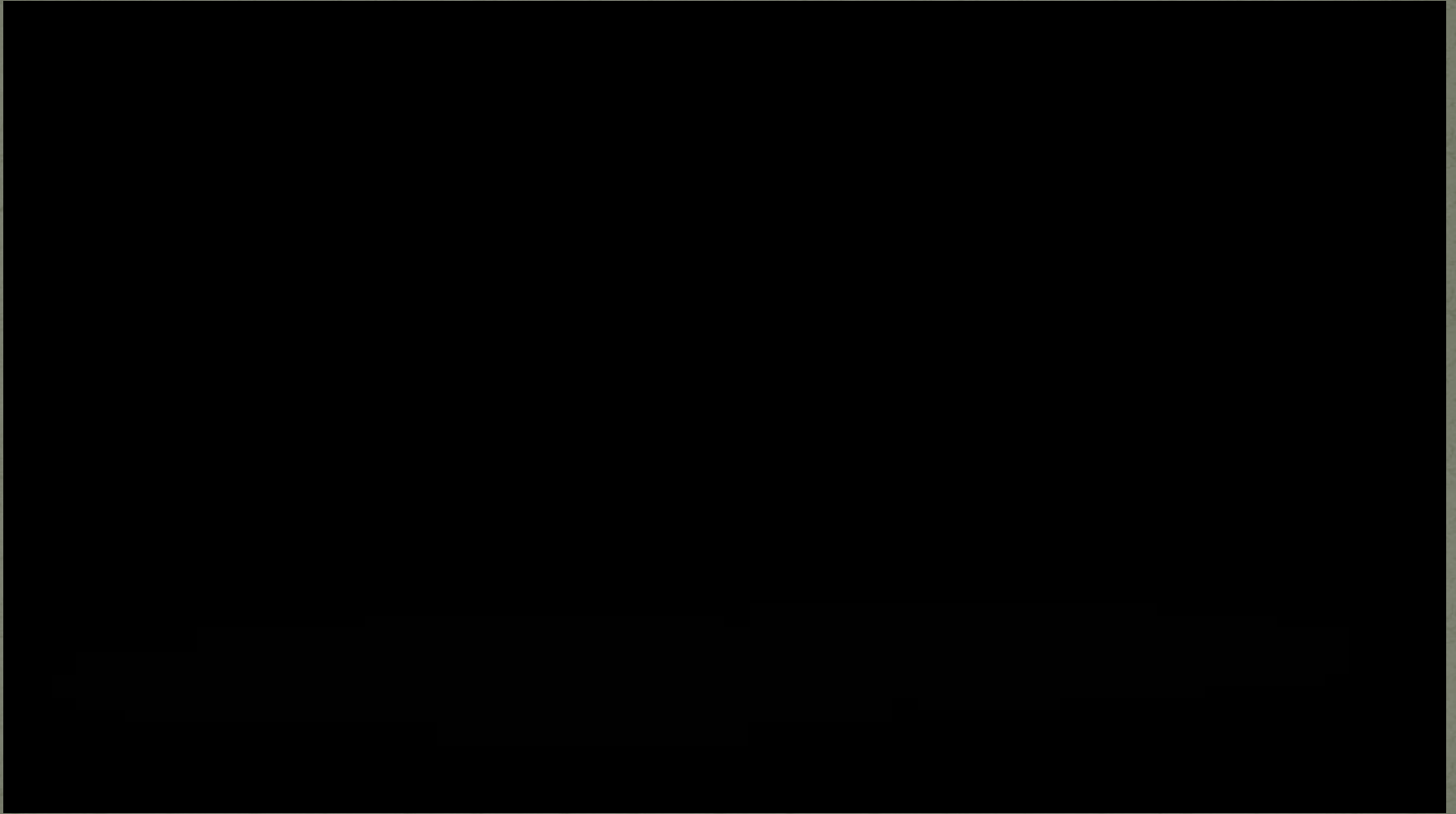
Dedicated Project Staff

Do You Have Staff to Handle Training / Deployment?
How About Support for Tech Issues as They Arise?
Do You Have Enough Staff to Support all End Users?
Do You Need to Involve IT, Evidence Personnel, Etc?

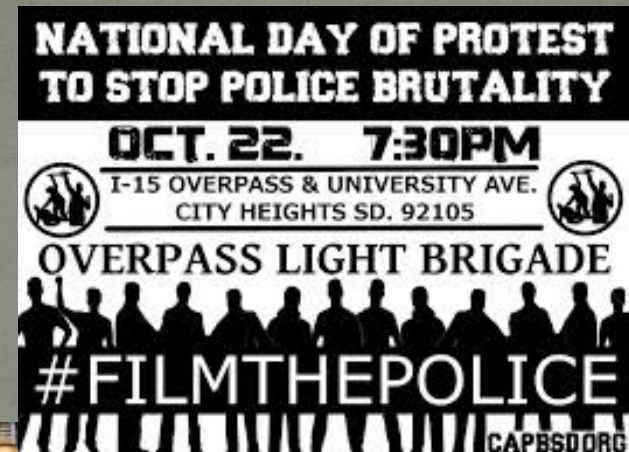
Vendor Support

Ensure That You Choose A Reputable Vendor That Can
Support the Product Post Sale
Additional Cost for Support?

Actual Incidents



Actual Incidents



Questions

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