



CITY COUNCIL

Darryl Moore
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 20, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmembers Darryl Moore, District 2; Jesse Arreguin, District 4; and Linda Maio, District 1
 Subject: Berkeley Police Department Use of Police Vehicle In-Vehicle and Body-Worn Cameras

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to develop a plan to implement the use of dash cameras and body-worn cameras for the Berkeley Police Department. The report should be presented to the City Council within 3 months.

BACKGROUND

By providing a video record of police activity, in-vehicle and body-worn cameras can improve transparency and can help to resolve questions following an encounter between officers and members of the public. Recording equipment can help to prevent issues from arising in the first place by increasing officer professionalism, helping agencies evaluate and improve officer performance, and allow agencies to identify and correct larger structural problems within the department.

Recording equipment can help agencies identify and correct problems within the department. Cameras can serve as a useful training tool to help improve office performance. Using footage from in-vehicle and body-worn cameras can provide scenario-based training, to evaluate the performance of new officers in the field, and to identify new areas in which training is needed. Using recording equipment in this way, agencies can improve tactics, communication, and customer service . This can help increase the perceived legitimacy and sense of procedural justice that communities have about their police departments. Law enforcement agencies have also found that body-worn cameras can help them to identify officers who abuse their authority or commit other misconduct and to assist in correcting questionable behavior before it reaches that level .

Cameras, particularly body-worn cameras, can significantly improve how evidence is captured for investigations and court proceedings . Along with documenting encounters with members of the public, body-worn cameras can provide a record of interrogations and arrests, as well as what officers witness at crime scenes. Officers are often



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focused on securing the scene and performing life-saving measures and that witnesses and victims may not always remember what they had told officers in the confusion .

This can lead to conflicting reports when victims and witnesses are asked to repeat their accounts in later statements. Some prosecutors have started encouraging police departments to use body-worn cameras to capture more reliable evidence for court, particularly in matters like domestic violence cases that can be difficult to prosecute.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Unknown

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Darryl Moore, District 2 981-7120