



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
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PRESENTER: Matthew Janzow, HR – Continuous Improvement, Assistant Chief Fred Scruggs, Capt. Christopher Travis TPD
SUBJECT: Body Worn Camera Update and Future Project Prioritization
DATE: April 22, 2021

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

On March 1st, 2021 the Tacoma Police Department (TPD) successfully completed implementation of a body worn camera (BWC) system for all active duty patrol officers. The BWC project manager and TPD command staff who led the project will discuss the current state of the body worn camera program, as well as thoughts for prioritization of future project phases.

BACKGROUND:

On June 30, 2020, the Tacoma City Council adopted resolution 40622, affirming the City Council's commitment to comprehensive and sustained transformation of all of the institutions, systems, policies, practices, and contracts impacted by systemic racism, with initial priority given to policing in the City of Tacoma.

First considered as part of Project PEACE recommendations in 2016, body worn cameras (BWC) were deployed from January to March 1st, 2021 to all 257 active duty patrol officers. The program represents TPD's ongoing commitment to rebuilding community trust and ensuring transparency in policing.

ISSUE:

TPD is fully committed to the City's transformational efforts and is supportive of additional cameras (both body worn and vehicle mounted). To potentially expand the program, and to support current operational needs, the following items would need consideration:

- Equipping commissioned officers serving in *non-patrol* capacities with body worn cameras
- Ensuring adequate staffing to support long-term program needs
- Preparing TPD for future program expansion into dash cameras and Axon Signal (vehicle mounted body camera activation)

Having gained a thorough understanding of the resourcing, staffing, and technical requirements associated with a project of this type, the Police Department will share with members of the Community, Vitality and Safety Committee the considerations necessary for equipping non-patrol commissioned officers with body worn cameras. The department will also share considerations and a measured approach to evaluating and implementing dash cameras.



ALTERNATIVES:

This presentation is for informational purposes only. City Staff will share necessary considerations for possible expansion of the body worn camera program as well as the potential for implementing dash cameras.

FISCAL IMPACT:

BWC Expansion to Non-patrol Police Commissioned Officers + Administrative Support Staff

Cost estimates for this course of action would be approximately \$320,000 in one time spending, and roughly \$307,000 per year in ongoing costs.

Dash Camera Expansion + Administrative Support Staff

Cost estimates for this course of action would be approximately \$1.02 million in one time spending, and roughly \$1 million per year in ongoing costs.

BWC Expansion to Non-patrol Police Commissioned Officers + Dash Camera Expansion + Administrative Support Staff

Cost estimates for this course of action would be approximately \$1.25 million in one time spending, and roughly \$1.1 million per year in ongoing costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Should funding become available and City Council desire to expand the current camera program, staff would recommend that a first priority be given to equipping all officers with body worn cameras, as it is most critical to ensuring officer accountability and transparency in policing. Once all commissioned officers are outfitted with body worn cameras, then consideration should be made to expand the program to dash cameras.