



BOYNTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Lori LaVerriere
City Manager

FROM: Jeffrey S. Katz
Chief of Police

REF: Taser International Axon Contract

DATE: December 6, 2016



Florida statute 932.7055 (5)(a) mandates the following regarding federal forfeiture funds:

If the seizing agency is a county or municipal agency, the remaining proceeds shall be deposited in a special law enforcement trust fund established by the board of county commissioners or the governing body of the municipality. Such proceeds and interest earned therefrom shall be used for school resource officer, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, drug abuse education, prevention programs, or for other law enforcement purposes, which include defraying the cost of protracted or complex investigations, providing additional equipment or expertise, purchasing automated external defibrillators for use in law enforcement vehicles, and providing matching funds to obtain federal grants. The proceeds and interest may not be used to meet normal operating expenses of the law enforcement agency.

Requesting Commission Approve the use of \$62,174.00 of federal forfeiture funds for the implementation of a Body Worn Camera (BWC) Program that includes 80 body worn video cameras and associated digital evidence management software. It also includes the necessary accessories, storage, management tools and training for a successful body worn cameras program. This request will just be for the first year of the contract. By having a BWC program, the department has the opportunity to provide the full unedited version of an incident video from the officer's perspective. The program will also increase transparency and police legitimacy. Transparency is a benefit because it will show to the community the department's willingness to open itself up to outside scrutiny. Transparency can also demonstrate to the community that officers aim to act in a fair and just manner when interacting with citizens, also known as procedural justice. Transparency leads to public trust and trust benefits the community.

Studies into the BWC programs nationwide (Rialto, Mesa, Phoenix, Orlando, Albuquerque) have shown improved police officer behavior measured through citizen complaints and use of force incidents. In addition, it has also shown a reduction in assaults against officers. The Rialto study showed a reduction of citizen complaints by 88 percent and a reduction of use of force by 60 percent when they implemented their BWC program in 2012. BWCs may have a civilizing effect, resulting in improved behavior among police officers and citizens. It may also be due to changes in citizens filing frivolous complaints against officers wearing cameras. Another advantage of having a BWC program is the expedited resolution of complaints and lawsuits. Complaints against officers are often adjudicated as "not sustained" after considerable resources are devoted to the investigation. With the advent of BWC, the process of considering any complaint will be made much easier and judicious by using the evidence from the camera.

Lastly, supporters of BWC have also suggested the technology can serve as an important training tool. A review of officer behavior could be especially useful when critical incidents, such as a use of force, are recorded. This is a powerful tool for a Training Section to help highlight effective and ineffective actions. The above is not an all-encompassing list of BWC program advantages, as the initiative grows many more positives will become evident, these are just a few of the most impactful currently.

The Boynton Beach Police Department remains dedicated to providing effective, efficient, and impartial police services while committed to the sanctity of the public trust. This expenditure fulfills both our legal obligation

under Florida State Statute 932 and the strategic intent of our department mission.

The funds should be drawn from account 691-5000-590-04-22 (Federal Forfeiture Law Enforcement Trust Fund). The current account balance is: \$179,419.29. This is a one-time donation expense.



