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Edcgov.us Mail - Budget: Sheriff Body Cameras

Public Comment #2



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Budget: Sheriff Body Cameras

2 messages

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Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 2:59 PM

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Cc: "edc.cob@edcgov.us" <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Dear Board,

Thank you for the courteous manner in which my public comments were heard this afternoon. I would request that the issue of funding body cameras be calendared for your next budget revision meeting. Or perhaps tasking your Human Rights Commission to consider a pilot program would be an alternative approach to consider.

Secondly I would request clarification of the opportunities public's participation in the budget adoption process. It is my understanding that extensive departmental participation resulted in today's budget for 2020-2021. I am unable to find similar opportunities using a first level search. Perhaps public participation occurred at the level of each department. I would appreciate the courtesy of a reply to my question prior to the Budget Resolution Adoption meeting on the 29th.

Below is the background information that I referenced during my comments.

Thank you all for your service.

Sincerely,

Leo

2020 "I think they are an essential component part of building trust and accountability and that they are an innovative tool for law enforcement," Sacramento County Supervisor Phil Serna said.

Serna along with Supervisors Sue Frost, Patrick Kennedy, Susan Peters, and Don Nottoli said body cameras can be a useful tool and that Sacramento County Sheriff's deputies should have them.

"I have felt for some time that we have not prioritized enough the funding and deployment of body cameras here in Sacramento County," Serna said.

Supervisor Kennedy told ABC10 that four years ago the Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones was opposed to body cameras. Jones said starting in 2018, he decided to support the use of body cameras and told ABC10 the department "desperately wants body cameras."

<https://www.abc10.com/article/news/local/sacramento/sacramento-county-budget-body-cameras-sheriffs-deputies/103-bdded09e-f3ec-48ca-a0d3-a471e04a7e1e>

2018 The potential of BWCs to improve policing for the better is appealing to many law enforcement executives.

<https://www.policeforum.org/assets/BWCCostBenefit.pdf>

2016 "The City Council and I have supported this project from the onset," said (Major) Wilkins. "The ongoing modernization of our police force provides our community the very best service they deserve."

The Placerville Police Department decided on utilizing this technology for various reasons which include: to enhance agency transparency, to improve digital evidence collection, to strengthen officer performance and accountability, to document encounters between police and the public and to investigate and resolve complaints and officer involved critical incidents.

"We are excited to equip all of our officers with this essential tool," said Police Chief Scott Heller. "This tool helps increase transparency and accountability within the ranks and within the community; it puts everyone, officers and citizens alike, on their best behaviors."

<https://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/body-cameras-on-every-placerville-officer/>

2014 "Perceived benefits of body-worn cameras

Among police executives whose departments use body-worn cameras, there is an overall perception that the cameras are a useful tool. These reported benefits include the following:

Strengthening police accountability by documenting incidents and encounters between officers and the public

Preventing confrontational situations by improving officer professionalism and the behavior of people being recorded

Resolving officer-involved incidents and complaints by providing a more accurate record of events

Improving agency transparency by allowing the public to see video evidence of police activities and encounters

Identifying and correcting internal agency problems by revealing officers who engage in misconduct and agency-wide problems

Strengthening officer performance by using footage for officer training and monitoring

Improving evidence documentation for investigations and prosecutions"

<https://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/body-cameras-on-every-placerville-officer/>

2012 Use of body camera's has been recommended by the Police Risk Management Committee of the Northern California Cities Self Insurance Fund. ...

The body worn cameras are being utilized by law enforcement throughout this state and the nation as a means of collecting critical, video & audio taped evidence. ...

As previously mentioned, one of the purposes behind the utilization of a body worn camera that can video, and audio tape (through digital technology), is to mitigate false accusations against police officers that result in high litigation costs, and or payouts to avoid high litigation costs.

http://www.cityofredbluff.org/clerk_archives/02-21-2012%20Agenda%20Packet/Large%20Font/Agenda%20Item%20F-6%20NCCSIF%20Safety%20Grant%20Funding.pdf

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Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 3:06 PM

To: The BOSTWO <bostwo@edcgov.us>, Donald Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>

fyi

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