



JOHN D'AGOSTINI
SHERIFF - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
COUNTY OF EL DORADO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

From: John D'Agostini
El Dorado County Sheriff ~ Coroner ~ Public Administrator

Date: April 26, 2021

RE: Consideration of funding Body Worn Camera Program for El Dorado County Sheriff's Office

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A portion of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Vision Statement is, "A Modern Approach to Traditional Law Enforcement Values." Since becoming the Sheriff in January of 2011, I have continually looked for ways to make our Sheriff's Office more effective, efficient, transparent and modern. As you know, we could discuss at length the advancements which have been implemented such as, HOT, PERT, UAV, RIMS RMS, Professional Standards/Early warning software and our new taxpayer funded headquarters facility to name a few.

Just recently, in cooperation with the District Attorney's Office a new Rapid DNA instrument was purchased and installed at the Sheriff's Office. The implementation of this DNA technology will take cutting edge DNA technology from the prosecution realm to the investigative realm allowing us to positively identify suspects, victims and decedents in minutes rather than months or years.

For the past few years, a Body Worn Camera (BWC) program has been discussed. Until recently, I had not been sold on such a program for reasons I had made openly. I was concerned that the technology was not yet reliable enough, the infrastructure costs were significant, not just for the initial outlay but the ongoing costs for digital video storage, the significant ongoing costs for review and redaction prior to release per Public Records Act (PRA) requests and lastly, policy and legal standards for operation of a BWC program.

After much research, I now believe the time has come that a BWC program could and should be implemented in the Sheriff's Office. Equipment reliability has improved, infrastructure costs have slightly diminished and policy and legal standards have

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advanced. However, for the BWC program to be established and operated effectively, new appropriations need to be added to the Sheriff's Office budget. Since 2011, the Sheriff's Office has operated on a "Status Quo" budget, year to year, increasing only for a few personnel allocations and statutory salary and benefit increases. The cost of implementing a BWC program cannot be absorbed by the current budget and status quo budgets moving forward.

Also, adding to the ongoing costs broken down in the accompanying documentation, current BWC technology has an approximate five-year life span for hardware and technology. In five years, we can expect the need to replace nearly the entire system.

In closing, I understand the hardship this technology places on the county's budget, both now and in the future, and the difficult decision you have. If, in your opinion, now is not the time to fund such a program, I do ask that you keep this technology at the front of your budget decisions moving forward so in the future, when funding is identified, such a program can be funded and implemented.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

