

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the use and implementation of on-officer camera technology by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE Motion (Englander – Buscaino) directing the LAPD to report relative to the use and implementation of on-officer camera technology, internal disciplinary actions, what video is discoverable, and the video retention period.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On July 2, 2013, Council considered Motion (Englander – Buscaino) relative to on-officer camera technology by the LAPD. Motion discusses this technology and how it would benefit the LAPD. Digital in-car video (DICV) has shown that 92% of personnel complaints filed in 2011 and 2012 pertaining to video-recordable incidents were rejected. Of the 19 sustained complaints, 10 were sustained for failing to activate the DICV. Motion goes on to state that a recent University of Cambridge study found that when police officers in Rialto California were equipped with body cameras, complaints against officers fell by 88 percent and the use of force dropped by almost 60 percent.

Motion further states Taser International, Inc., a vendor that already provides equipment and services to the City is a leader in the field of on-officer video and has indicated a willingness to donate its time and resources to a proof of concept study to field test police-worn camera technology. Motion movers believe that, given the positive results from DICV, and the promising experience other police departments are having with body cameras, the LAPD should both continue its roll out of DICV and expedite its evaluation of expanding its program to include body camera technology. It is recommended that the LAPD conduct a field study of on-office cameras and report to the Board of Police Commissioners and the Public Safety Committee with an evaluation of this technology. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held November 22, 2013, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the LAPD. Department staff indicated that a pilot program will be initiated in Central Division. Thirty footbeat officers have been outfitted with cameras donated by TASER. Officers received two weeks of training. The Department is still in the process of developing field guidelines. A second pilot will be conducted using cameras to be donated by another vendor. The Public Safety Committee recommended that Council note and file Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEMBER	VOTE
ENGLANDER:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
BONIN:	YES
O'FARRELL	YES
MARTINEZ:	ABSENT

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-