

MOTION

In September, the Los Angeles Police Department launched its long awaited body camera program in two divisions with plans to equip a total of 7,000 officers with body cameras. The use of body cameras by police departments has drawn significant attention as departments nationwide begin to implement similar programs and develop policies, while also weighing issues of privacy and accountability.

With the deployment of the first 860 body cameras, the LAPD adopted procedures to govern the use of body cameras. However, no written policy has been adopted for the release of body camera footage. As the nation's largest agency to move forward with an ambitious plan to equip every officer with a body camera, the department will be closely watched by other law enforcement agencies and others.

Last year, after doing extensive research and speaking with more than 200 law enforcement agencies nationwide, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Police Executive Research Forum released guidelines for implementing a body-worn camera program. These guidelines include recommendations for when law enforcement agencies should release footage captured on body cameras. To ensure transparency and accountability, it is important for LAPD to review and adopt a policy for the release of body camera footage, while still protecting the privacy rights of victims of crime, witnesses, and police personnel.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Commission and Department to review the analysis done by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and Bureau of Justice Assistance, along with the Police Executive Research Forum, and report back with policy recommendations for the release of body camera footage.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Department to report back with a detailed analysis of the total cost of the body camera program, including any new positions required to support the program.



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