

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA

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When making inquiries relative to  
this matter, please refer to the  
Council File No.

January 10, 2014

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council  
File No. 12-0757, at its meeting held January 8, 2014.

City Clerk  
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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the use and retention of recorded in-car video and the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) protocol for the Digital In-Car Video (DICV) System in their patrol vehicle is not operational.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. APPROVE the LAPD report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated June 14, 2013 (attached to the Council file) relative to the Department's proposed policies for use and retention of recorded in-car video, and protocol for police officers when the DICV System in their patrol vehicle is not operational.
2. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend the Los Angeles Administrative Code to reduce the video retention period from five to two years.
3. REQUEST the Board of Police Commissioners, with input from the LAPD and the Police Protective League (PPL), to conduct a confidential and anonymous survey of police officers regarding the use of on-officer cameras and video technology in the field.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the LAPD. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

#### SUMMARY

In the June 14, 2013, report to the Board of Police Commissioners, the LAPD discusses the use and retention of recorded in-car video and the protocol for police officers when the DICV System in their patrol vehicle is not operational. LAPD states that DICV is designed to assist officers in providing accurate depictions of events for courtroom presentations, capturing potentially incriminating statements from suspects, documenting and reviewing statements from victims and witnesses, and obtaining actual time frames of events for reporting purposes.

At its meeting held September 27, 2013, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the LAPD. Department staff indicated video is retained for five years. An ordinance is required to reduce the retention period to two years. Reducing the retention period would result in cost savings. It was further stated that the Chief recently issued a special order clarifying the allowable uses of in-car video. Cameras are checked routinely as part of a patrol car's regular periodic maintenance. If a camera is not operative, it is repaired or replaced. Recorded video is not subject to public records requests according to Department staff.

During the public comment period, a representative of the PPL stated that opinions of DICV are mostly positive among police officers. However, there is concern that the video can be used against police officers and generate unnecessary personnel complaints. It was stated that the Department should avoid using DICV in an administratively punitive manner.

Committee members approved LAPD's report and expressed support for reducing the video retention

period from five to two years. It was also recommended that the LAPD conduct an anonymous survey of police officers regarding DICV, and seek out suggestions for policy improvements of the system.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



MEMBER      VOTE

ENGLANDER: YES

BUSCAINO: ABSENT

BONIN: YES

O'FARRELL: YES

MARTINEZ: ABSENT

**ADOPTED**

**JAN 8 2014**

**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**