Chula Vista Police Department Body Worn Camera Program

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Research

- Initial research focused on in-car cameras (70 car fleet)
- Data storage biggest barrier – storage server cost and management
- Data transfer from device another barrier
- Cost of equipment ($5,000) per car prohibitive
- Estimated cost $500k-600k startup cost not including IT staffing requirements
- IT support / staff time cost prohibitive (OCSO substation example)
Timeline

- August 2010 90 day field test of six 1st Generation Taser Axon BWCs
- Early resistance to cloud storage – “non-starter”
- Cameras were bulky, uncomfortable, and had a short battery life (10-12 hour shifts)
- CVPD budget deficit / Technology Unit inadequate
- Positive note - early experience with Evidence.com storage proved to be simple, secure and reliable
Testing of Other BWCs Over Time

- Wolfcom, Vievu, Stalker and review of others

- Barriers
  - No docking stations – USB cable to desktop transfer
  - Local storage only – no cloud based solution
  - Rudimentary data management databases
  - Still reliant on physical media to share (ie: burn to DVDs)

- In short, camera hardware is a commodity item

- The key to a successful BWC program is how data is managed and stored for review, retrieval and discovery
Long-Term Testing of Taser Axons

- 2012 - Cloud solutions more mainstream and secure and Evidence.com had evolved and become more functional

- CVPD purchased six Axons with five years of Evidence.com storage for longer-term testing

- 2014 - The budget was stable and Chief Bejarano authorized a full patrol deployment after early success

- January 2015 – 120 Taser Axon BWC’s deployed throughout patrol Division
Cloud vs. Local Data Storage

- Local storage data centers are complex, expensive and require extensive IT support and expertise.
- Police Departments do not want to be IT experts – they want to focus on the core mission of public safety.
- Cloud storage offers Software as a Service (SaaS) and Storage as a Service (STaaS) at a lower cost for most agencies.
- The City of Chula Vista’s current IT infrastructure could not support local storage in the foreseeable future.
- Cloud storage was the best solution for our agency.
## CVPD Average Usage to date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Daily Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of videos uploaded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours of video uploaded</td>
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<td>MB of video uploaded</td>
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Policy Development / Training

- **Policy development included:**
  - Policy exemplars – IACP, Cal Chiefs, SDPD, Rialto, etc.
  - Stakeholders – POA, ACLU, SDDA’s office, Chief’s Advisory Commission input

- **5 hours training for each officer**
  - Policy review
  - Issue and train on equipment
  - Data / video management (Officers cannot delete or edit videos)
  - Scenario based practice – muscle memory
Significant Policy Points

- Officers are permitted to review videos prior to writing a report.
  - If an officer’s camera fails to record they may review video of an officer in immediate proximity and perspective before writing a report.
  - Exception: Public Safety Statement may be ordered without video review (number of shots fired, number/description of suspects, direction of fire, possible civilians in the line of fire, etc.)

- Members should activate recorders in anticipation of enforcement related activity

- Officers should notify the public that they are being recorded
Significant Policy Points

- **Retention Schedule (classified by officers per incident)**
  - Permanent - Homicides and Critical Incidents
  - 3 + years - Cases involving potential civil liability
  - 3 years – All Felonies
  - 3 years - All Use of Force incidents
  - 1 year – Misdemeanors
  - 1 year – Citations
  - 180 Days – Field Interviews
  - 90 Day minimum retention on all non-categorized videos (routine incident with no apparent investigative value)

- **CPRA / FOIA Requests –**
  - Videos are part of the investigative record and not subject to public release
  - Release at the Discretion of the Chief of Police absent court order or lawful authority
Streamlined Evidence Sharing

Officer Recordings → Evidence.com (Cloud Storage) → BWC Program Administrator

Docking Station

Electronic Sharing of Evidence
- Detectives
- Administration
- DA’s Office
- Discovery
Case Streamlining

- As of February 1, 2015, CVPD forwards all BWC footage to the Southbay DA’s office along with case reports to the issuing DA. Footage is shared electronically.

- SDDA’s office has worked with Taser and Evidence.com to store shared electronic evidence

- SDDA’s office reviews and redacts videos as necessary (blurring effects, audio mute for sensitive scenes)

- SDDA’s office shares video discovery with defense attorneys electronically
CVPD Body Worn Camera Project

Thank you for your time.

Questions?

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