

Body-worn camera statement

Body-worn video is incredibly important to our community and our officers as we continue to work to enhance transparency, accountability, best practices, and trust in policing on a larger scale. When incidents occur, it is imperative light shines on the truth; this technology will help move us towards that end.

In this digital age, segments of some police encounters are captured on cellphone video which is one piece of the puzzle. An equally important piece is the video that captures police encounters from the officers' perspective. Body cameras truly go a long way to put more pieces of the puzzle together, to see the larger picture.

In this endeavor, we must strike the right balance of transparency and privacy for victims and community members. Our policies and practices will help ensure that balance is achieved and maintained.

Benefits of Body-worn cameras

1) Body-Worn Cameras Improves **Accountability**

One small device is able to create a piece of evidence that showcases the interactions between all parties involved, holding everyone accountable for their actions. Cameras have the potential to be a win-win, helping protect the public against police misconduct, and at the same time helping protect police against false accusations.

2) Body-Worn Cameras Promote **Transparency** and Openness

Along with accountability comes transparency, and the new technology in law enforcement allows the public to see exactly what officers are doing. Oftentimes, showcasing the difficult situations officers face on a daily basis.

3) Body-Worn Cameras **Improve Officer Performance** and **Civilian Conduct**

Cameras have the potential to improve behavior on both sides of the camera.

4) Body-Worn Cameras offer an **Impartial Eyewitness**

Another benefit of the Body-Worn Camera is its ability to be an unbiased third-party witness. Body-Worn Cameras record events and dialogue as they happen and provide an impartial account to law enforcement officials and the public alike.

5) Body-Worn Cameras Aid in **Evidence Collection** and **Court Proceedings**

Aside from documenting encounters with the public, body camera technology also helps officers record what they see at accident and crime scenes; improving evidence collection. Having more detailed documentation of scenes and interviews helps the public, as well. Video evidence has the potential to help reduce officers' time spent in court; increase patrol time and reduce overtime costs.

6) Body-Worn Cameras Improve Officer Training and Development

It's hard to find something better than real-life footage from your jurisdiction when it comes to on-the-job training. The use of information technology by law enforcement, including reviewing BWC footage, helps officers learn from each other and is cost-effective.

7) In-Car Camera integration as an Investigative Tool

The in-car camera integration will have the ability to be used as Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR), increasing the likelihood of officers locating stolen cars, wanted persons, and solving crimes in Palos Verdes Estates while patrolling.

These seven benefits of body-worn and in-car camera systems help enhance overall transparency, accountability, best practices, and trust in policing on a larger scale. As a result, the City of Palos Verdes Estates will remain one of the safest cities in California.