

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

District Impacted		
	1 = Haberstroh	
	2 = Woolard	
	3 = Boyd	
	4 = Cisneros	
	5 = Bergmann	

DESCRIPTION

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2016-R19; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BOERNE, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM GRANT; AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BOERNE IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION; AND PLEDGING THAT IF A GRANT IS RECEIVED THE CITY OF BOERNE WILL COMPLY WITH THE GRANT REQUIREMENTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDED **ACTION** (be specific)

APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-R19; A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BOERNE, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION FOR BODY-WORN CAMERA PROGRAM GRANT; AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF BOERNE IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION; AND PLEDGING THAT IF A GRANT IS RECEIVED THE CITY OF BOERNE WILL COMPLY WITH THE GRANT REQUIREMENTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR.

CONTACT PERSON

SUMMARY

Chief James Kohler

All across the United States there have been countless Officer Involved Shootings (OIS), accusations of police wrongdoing, excessive Use of Force complaints, citizens accusing officers of improprieties and other issues that have brought the usage of the Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program to the forefront in policing. There is no doubt that the trust in policing is at an alltime low in certain communities and forced police executives to really question their way of policing.

The Boerne Police Department has been researching and reviewing data that has been compiled on the use and implementation of a BWC program for almost a year now. For the last 3 months we have been utilizing 4 BWCs that were part of a promotional program from our mobile video program provider at no cost to the City of Boerne.

Prior to the implementation the Police Department reviewed the study performed by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). PERF is viewed by many as a strong research agency that utilizes empirical research methods to determine the best practices on police topics. The DOJ and PERF researched and created a document to assist police agencies in instituting a BWC Program;

"Implementing a Body-Worn Program- Recommendations and Lessons Learned", which is a 90 page document. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has also written a sample policy when implementing a BWC Program. We have adopted the best practices policy with minimal changes that the IACP recommended. There is a wealth of articles in regards to a BWC Program in almost every police magazine within the past several months that we have read and most of them refer back to the study by the DOJ and PERF.

I think it is important for the Council to understand this project that has been thoroughly researched by those in policing and we have researched countless articles throughout this project. I would like to list a few things that should be mentioned as we move forward on this project that will allow you and the community to be informed.

First, a BWC program has limitations and is not the so-called silver bullet to our relationship with the community. That relationship is built on the community's trust of the Boerne Police Department, our service to the community, integrity of the officers, and our transparency to the community in police matters. Here are a few topics that have been covered in the research:

- <u>Perceived Benefits:</u> Reducing Complaints and resolving officerinvolved incidents, Identifying and correcting internal agency problems,
- Considerations for Implementation: Determining when to record, consent to record, recording in private residences, data storage, retention and disclosure, and Lessons learned on privacy considerations,
- Impact on Community Relationships: Securing community support,
 Protecting intelligence-gathering efforts, lessons learned about
 impact on community relationships,
- Addressing Officer Concerns: Officer concerns about a BWC
 Program, addressing officer concerns, incremental implementation,
 and lessons learned about addressing concerns,
- <u>Managing Expectations:</u> Officer review of video prior to making statements, lessons learned about managing expectations,
- <u>Financial Considerations:</u> Cost of implementation, cost-saving strategies, and lessons learned about financial considerations,
- BWC Recommendations: General recommendations, recording

protocols, download and storage policies, recorded data access and review, training policies, policy, and program evaluation.

The Police Department was tasked with locating grant money to assist with the goal of implementing a BWC Program. The State of Texas saw the need to assist agencies with implementing a BWC Program and has offered the grant through the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office. This grant is only for frontline officers in the field and we are eligible for 26 BWCs. We have kept the City Manager, Ronald Bowman, informed on the progress in regards to this grant, and on January 19, 2016 we received information that we were selected to continue the progress within this grant opportunity.

At the time of the budget preparation last year, we still did not know if any grants were coming available in the near future and was merely speculation on our part, thus no funds were set aside for this project. The grant award is for 26 BWC at a cost of \$47,936.25 and the City of Boerne portion is 25% of the grant which equates to, \$9,587.25. The COB would have to expend the \$47,936.25 and would be reimbursed \$38,349.00 by the state.

There are numerous grant requirements that must be followed by the City of Boerne and the Police Department to satisfy the grant. The City of Boerne passing a Resolution is one of the first steps in fulfilling that portion of the grant. The next steps are as follows:

- Obtain coordination letter from the District Attorney supporting the BWC Program.
- Register with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE).
- Before Implementation attend training on BWC.
- Create policy (completed).
- Implement BWC.
- The earliest grantee start date is March 1, 2016 and the latest is August 15, 2016.

In conclusion, this process has involved the Police Department reviewing research, testing 3 different manufactures of the BWC, site visits to other agencies, coordination with our IT Department, creating policy that was reviewed by the City Attorney, and meetings with the City Manager. Based on all information we have obtained we have chosen Taser International for several reasons; costs, Cloud-Based storage, superior mounting platforms on

	the officer, reliability, proven in the field by other law enforcement agencies. In the following years, funds will have to be set aside for the electronic storage of the videos based on the State of Texas retention schedule. Staff is recommending approval of the Resolution.
COST	\$47,936.25
SOURCE OF FUNDS	GF
ADDITIONAL	The City of Boerne will be reimbursed \$38,349.00. The City of
INFORMATION	Boerne will expend \$9,587.25

This summary is not meant to be all inclusive. Supporting documentation is attached.

Form Revised 10/13/15