



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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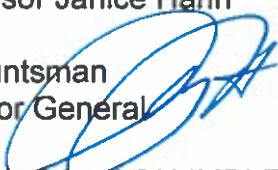
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INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 3, 2020

TO: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn

FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General 

SUBJECT: REPORT BACK ON IMPLEMENTING BODY-WORN CAMERAS IN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Purpose of Memorandum:

On January 9, 2020, the Office of Inspector General presented its first report back on the September 24, 2019, the Board of Supervisors motion directing the Office of Inspector General, in consultation with the Sheriff, Public Defender, Acting Alternate Public Defender, District Attorney, Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel and the Executive Director of the Civilian Oversight Commission to monitor and report on (1) the progress of the implementation of technology infrastructure upgrades at patrol stations and other locations as needed for body-worn cameras and (2) the receipt of a final body-worn camera policy from the Sheriff's Department, with such policy to address the elements raised by the Board of Supervisors. The Board requested that following the first report back, the Office of Inspector General continue to report back every sixty days. This is our second report back on the progress of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's (LASD) implementation of body-worn cameras.

On January 16, 2020, LASD Commander Chris Marks presented to the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) the status of the implementation of body-worn cameras and the final LASD policy on body-worn cameras. The presentation included the status of station infrastructure upgrades necessary to support the technology required to upload and store the video footage. To date, five station upgrades have been completed.

The County's Internal Services Department is handling the Request for Proposals (RFP) regarding the vendors for the body-worn cameras. All vendor submissions were due on January 9, 2020, and the process to select a vendor has begun. LASD estimates it will take four to six months to select a vendor. LASD will then submit a funding request to the Board of Supervisors. LASD estimates deployment of cameras will be two years from the date of the signed contract. Deputies have been selected to fill twelve of the thirteen sworn positions in the budget approved by the Board of Supervisors to deploy and support body-worn cameras. LASD is in the process of filling the remaining positions, which include one more deputy and twenty professional staff.

Commander Marks informed the COC that each deputy who is assigned a body-worn camera will receive eight hours of training prior to deployment. A substantial portion of that training will be on the LASD body-worn camera policy.

The LASD body-worn camera policy has already been approved by the unions and adopted by LASD. It will not be published until the body-worn cameras are deployed, at which time the policy will be published both internally and on the LASD public website. Commander Marks stated the policy was the result of a six-year process which involved obtaining input from the Office of Internal Review, reviewing the policies of hundreds of agencies, meetings with numerous agencies, information learned at trainings and conferences, input from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) report, and recommendations from the COC and the Office of Inspector General. Commander Marks represented that the policy is completely aligned with the IACP recommendations and is closely aligned with the policy of the Los Angeles Police Department.

The policy was adopted without input from the COC. Commander Marks stated that the Board of Supervisor's timeline for adopting a final policy prevented LASD from obtaining input from the COC.

Commander Marks acknowledged that the current policy does not adopt all the recommendations made by the Office of Inspector General, including the recommendation covering review of videos related to serious use of force incidents resulting in an injury to the subject of the force. A thorough analysis of the policy is underway by the Office of Inspector General and will include a comparison of the LASD policy to the recommendations of the Office of Inspector General, the COC, IACP, and input received from the Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, and District Attorney's offices.

Commander Marks stated it is LASD's intention to comply with AB 748 requiring the release of video for what are known as critical incidents. These are videos which document serious uses of force and those uses of force which cause injuries. However, all other videos are considered by LASD to be investigative records that will not be

released in response to a California Public Records Act request. This LASD view also applies to complaints by members of the community; LASD will review video in response to a complaint but will not release it to the public, including the complainant.

According to Commander Marks, the main reason behind the decision not to publicly release videos of incidents not considered critical is that it is cost prohibitive.

During the presentation at the COC, concerns regarding the LASD policy were discussed at length by Commander Marks, Inspector General Huntsman, and members of the COC Board. COC Chair Patti Giggans stated her position that the COC recommend to the Board of Supervisors that LASD move forward with the implementation of cameras but continue to analyze the policy to ameliorate the concerns expressed and any other concerns raised by the public. Commissioner Giggans inquired of the commissioners as to their agreement as to this recommendation and there was acquiescence by her fellow commissioners. The Inspector General agreed that despite concerns over LASD policy, he recommends moving forward with the implementation of body-worn cameras because the value of having them outweighs the concerns over the current policy.

The Office of Inspector General will continue to monitor the implementation of body-worn cameras and to consult with the offices of the Public Defender, the Alternate Public Defender, and the Civilian Oversight Commission, as well as the District Attorney's Office, County Counsel and the CEO

MH:dw

c: Alex Villanueva, Sheriff
Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer
Mary C. Wickham, County Counsel
Brian Williams, Executive Director, Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission