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April 12, 2022

Mrs. Jennifer Woolridge  
Manager of Operations and Special Projects  
Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board  
4500 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Road  
Springfield, IL 62703

Subject: City of Champaign Police Department 2021 In-Car & Body-Worn Camera Reporting

Dear Mrs. Woolridge:

In July 2017, the City of Champaign Police Department completed its full implementation of Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) for all sworn law enforcement officers in every department division. The Champaign Police Department continued with its fully implemented deployment of Panasonic Arbitrator Mark 3 BWCs throughout 2021.

As of December 31, 2021, the Department's authorized strength was 124 sworn positions. All officers were assigned their own BWC during 2021. Any officer assigned to the Patrol Division was also assigned their own microphone for the in-car camera system. Officers assigned to other divisions, such as Investigations, did not have a microphone assigned to them as their vehicles were not equipped with in-car camera systems. If an officer assigned to one of these other units did work a patrol assignment, there was a pool of in-car microphones available to them or any other officer assigned to patrol who experienced issues with their assigned microphone. As vacancies were filled, each newly sworn officer was assigned their own BWC and microphone for the in-car camera system.

In addition to the BWCs, the Department continued to use thirty-six [36] Panasonic Arbitrator 360 HD in-car video camera systems.

The following technology infrastructure issues were presented and resolved during the deployment of BWCs in 2021:

- On occasion, officers made errors related to correctly classifying the videos for proper retention. This was resolved with further training and supervisory oversight.
- Twelve [12] BWC systems had SD card errors during 2021. Five [5] of these errors required service by the manufacturer, while the remaining seven [7] were repaired in-house.
- Four [4] BWC systems failed to operate and were serviced by the manufacturer.

- Two [2] BWC systems lost recordings or failed to save the recordings and were subsequently serviced by the manufacturer.
- Intermittent problems continued to be reported regarding the BWCs not syncing with the Panasonic Arbitrator Front-End Client (the video processing units in the squad cars). The issues were resolved as they occurred with Champaign Police staff troubleshooting the individual issues.
- Charging/synching cables installed in the squad cars and issued to officers have continued to fail due to normal wear and tear. The Department has replaced the cables at a rate of two to three [2-3] per month.
- There were ten [10] BWC video import issues reported in 2021, which were resolved by in-house staff trained on the video system:
  - This issue was often solved by manually transferring the videos from the BWC to the server, reconfiguring the cameras, formatting the memory cards, and testing the cameras. On occasion, the Champaign Police staff contacted Panasonic's Arbitrator Support for additional assistance. These BWCs were then put back into service and functioned as expected.
  - On occasion, metadata and video files would not automatically upload from the camera's secure digital memory card. These issues were resolved by working with Panasonic Arbitrator Support staff. At times it required that the BWC be sent in for service. The BWCs were serviced rather than replaced due to the BWCs being etched with unique department identifiers.
  - On a couple of occasions, BWC video was uploaded as "unverified" and could not be properly classified. These issues were resolved by sending the video to the Panasonic Arbitrator Support engineering team to have the video repaired.
- Through officer reporting and video reviews, it was noted that infrequent incidents involving BWCs falling off uniforms occurred. These incidents were usually caused by the BWCs being ripped away from the mounting location during a foot chase, a physical struggle, or by being caught on an object such as a seatbelt or doorway. Officers were provided with three different mounting options: one magnetic mount and two different clip mounts. The magnetic mounting option was prone to separating when horizontal force was applied to the camera. The clip mounts were susceptible to being dislodged by physical force such as a struggle or getting the unit caught on an object such as a seatbelt or doorway.
- During 2019, technical limitations for sharing videos with the City and State's Attorney's Office were identified, and several solutions were proposed. Information Technology staff attempted to configure a shared network of folders to facilitate video sharing; however, the State's Attorney's office experienced difficulties accessing their network folder. The Department has continued to provide videos on discs and portable hard drives, creating additional work and expenses that a shared network folder would have eliminated.

To ensure proper use and functionality of the BWCs, we have the following supervisory review processes in place:

- Staff involved in implementing the BWC program randomly viewed videos to ensure the programmed settings and video and audio quality were configured to meet our expectations.
- All reports and accompanying BWC and in-car videos for encounters involving any Use of Force above normal handcuffing procedures are reviewed by multiple supervisors. The videos and associated reports are typically viewed by a sergeant, a lieutenant, and a deputy chief and/or chief of police. The use of force is also reviewed by a "Use of Force Review Committee" when it involves certain conditions outlined by department policy. This committee consists of the Deputy Chief of Operations, lieutenants, sergeants, patrol officers, members of the Training Cadre, and citizens representatives.
- Patrol Officers and Investigators must note in their police reports if a video was reviewed before typing their reports. Field Training Officers (FTO's) and supervisors are encouraged to review pertinent portions of those videos when reviewing police reports.
- Sergeants are encouraged to review videos for each of their assigned officers randomly. Sergeants are expected to use the video review process to ensure compliance with the Department's policy and procedures.
- Videos are reviewed before conducting officer and supervisory level after-action debriefings.
- Videos are reviewed during complaint proceedings.
- Videos are reviewed during FOIA requests and redaction processing.
- Videos that are classified as private, meaning an officer reported a video was accidentally recorded that was not required by law or policy and was recorded in a private setting (Ex: an officer using the restroom), are reviewed by the Deputy Chief of Police of Operations. These videos are reviewed only to the point that the Deputy Chief can confirm the video is private.
- Videos are routinely reviewed by the City of Champaign Legal Department, the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office, and defense attorneys after being requested for legal proceedings.
- The video program manager, a City of Champaign Police Department Lieutenant, reviews random videos to ensure compliance with the Department's policies and procedures and state law.
- Videos are reviewed by the City of Champaign Police Departments Administration and Professional Standards Division related to allegations of misconduct.
- In May 2019, the City of Champaign Human Relations Commission Citizen Review Subcommittee began reviewing videos involving formal complaint investigations related to citizen complaints.

The Champaign Police Department coordinated with the Champaign County State's Attorney's Office to ensure BWC and in-car videos were efficiently shared when needed as evidence. Please refer to Enclosure #1 (BWC ICV Evidence Report) and Enclosure #2 (Court BWC Data Report)

for a list of videos used in the prosecution process of criminal, conservation, traffic, or municipal ordinance violations.

Other relevant information includes the technical and financial issues of retaining videos on a main server and implementing a backup server and a separate cold storage server. We initially purchased an 80 Terabyte expandable main server in 2016. In 2019, the City of Champaign purchased an expandable 350 Terabyte server and an additional 350 Terabyte backup server to specifically store BWC and in-car videos.

- Peripheral costs (servers, redaction software, additional staff, etc.) have been approximately equal to our initial purchase costs of the BWCs, accessories, training, warranties, and recurring licensing costs.
- The requirement to redact videos for FOIA requests continues to be extremely time-consuming and costly. We have continued to employ an additional evidence technician whose sole responsibility is to process in-car and BWC video requests. We currently use Motion DSP Ikena redaction software. We continue to believe that without timely advances in affordable redaction technologies, the only timely relief should be through legislative changes that could limit the dire effects that BWC and in-car video statutes and BWC FOIA laws have upon our programs. We continue to commit significant staff time interpreting FOIA, BWC, and in-car video statutes, processing FOIA requests, and consulting with our city legal department for specific guidance. As the Department prepares to replace the existing BWC and in-car cameras, the redaction capabilities of the proposed systems will be reviewed during the purchasing process.

In 2021, staff began to test replacement body-worn cameras and in-car cameras in preparation to replace our current systems. A procurement process for the new system has not begun yet.

In conclusion, our BWC and in-car video camera program has successfully achieved most of our goals. Some obstacles have been overcome, and many more can be reduced or avoided with revisions to the BWC, in-car video, and FOIA statutes. The Champaign Police Department remains committed to overcoming the intricacies and obstacles as we manage our BWC and in-car camera video program. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions at (217) 403-6911.

Respectfully,

  
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Thomas Petrilli  
Interim Chief of Police

Enclosures:

- Body-Worn Video and In-Car Video Evidence Report (BWC ICV Evidence Report)
- Body-Worn Video and In-Car Video Court Data (Court BWC Data Report)