

## Richmond Police Department

### Body-Worn Camera Program Info

- As the Mayor mentioned, we did have an officer who was the victim of a shooting shortly after midnight this past Sunday morning. (*He was shot while pursuing an armed suspect.*)
- Thankfully the officer is recovering well. And the suspect has been arrested.
- I had the opportunity to visit the officer in the hospital the other day and he is in good spirits.
- Additionally, I know many of you have asked me to confirm the name of the officer who was shot, but I cannot release the name of a victim of a crime.
- Ultimately, the shooting of our officer highlights the critical nature of getting these body worn cameras deployed to our officers.
- (As the Mayor pointed out,) the officer who was shot this Sunday was actually slated to receive a camera this Thursday.
- If that officer had a camera on Sunday morning, it would have provided a valuable recording of the incident.
- It may have even served to deter or dissuade the individual from choosing to pull the trigger in the first place.

- That said, we look forward to deploying these cameras to members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct today and Thursday.
- I thank the Mayor for putting the necessary money in the budget to purchase these 200 body worn cameras.
- We have spent many months researching and preparing. We want to ensure that we do this the right way – and we wanted to have a sensible and thoughtful policy in place prior to deploying the cameras.
- A number of community members and other organizations assisted us in crafting our policy:
  - Claire Gastanaga, Executive Director of ACLU Virginia;
  - Lynetta Thompson, President of the Richmond Branch NAACP;
  - Faith leaders; and
  - many other members of the community.
- The General Order will be made available on our website. And as I told our community partners who helped us; the policy will be updated and adjusted as we learn from the deployment and use of the cameras.
- Ultimately, we know these cameras will be an invaluable tool.
- They change behavior and provide increased accountability for everyone involved.
- In other cities that have deployed the cameras, the initial impact appears to be a significant reduction in citizen

complaints, violent interactions, and incidents leading to possible use of force.

- We have a great relationship with the community we serve.
- The body worn cameras will only help us to build on that relationship – by increasing trust, improving services, and enhancing public safety in the City of Richmond.
- As for the planned deployment, there are 40 officers from Fourth Precinct who volunteered for this initial phase.
- They will be using two types of cameras:
  - 20 Taser “**Axon Flex**” cameras (cameras have multiple mounting options);
  - 20 Taser “**Axon Body 2**” cameras (camera mounts in the center of chest)
- We have received 20 Axon Flex cameras and the first 10 officers will deploy them today (Tuesday).
- The Axon Body 2 cameras are a brand-new model and will arrive within the next few weeks. These will be deployed to the officers at that time.
- The officers will receive four hours of training in the operation and use of the cameras and our General Order.
- We will be conducting an initial 30-day review. This will allow us to assess the operation of the two camera systems, get the officers’ thoughts and feedback, and review our General Order.

- We will then deploy the additional cameras to the other precincts.

***Show officers wearing the cameras:***

- These are two examples of the cameras:
  - The Axon Flex, which is attached to a battery pack, can be mounted a number of ways: glasses or lapel or collar.
  - The Axon Body mounts at the center of the chest.
- **Here is a short video we made to show everyone how the recordings will look from the perspective of the officer.**

***Show video.***

- My goal is transparency. I believe both my words and actions since I became Chief have proven that. I am also duty bound to protect the privacy rights and concerns of all of those with whom we interact in instances where the law or the public's safety requires privacy protections. But I assure you that I remain committed to releasing video when it does not jeopardize the integrity of an investigation or the privacy rights of victims, witnesses, or other involved parties.