

Mayor Dwight C. Jones  
Introduction of Police Body Cameras  
Richmond Police Department Headquarters  
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We are all aware of the national discussion that has been sparked about police brutality and excessive force, and the challenges many cities have faced.

Often, the public opinion is that officers don't use the right amount of force, and there have been many questions raised around the country about fair treatment and accountability.

But in our city, interactions between officers and civilians have been going well.

We think we've been getting it right here in the city of Richmond; and we want to keep it that way.

Today we are here to tell you that soon, Richmond Police officers will be equipped with body worn cameras.

The purchases have been made and the training for our officers has begun.

This is an important undertaking for our city, because we want to build on the good relationship we have established between police and the community.

We see these body cameras as a positive tool in our toolbox for that purpose – it's a way to increase transparency, and to increase confidence in the criminal justice process.

The cameras will allow us to collect more evidence – we'll know better who is involved, who is not involved, and we'll just be able to more readily see what's going on.

These resources will help our officers in their work to provide a safe and secure environment for everyone – officers and civilians alike.

And I believe the use of body cameras can deter some of the kinds of concerns we hear about and can enhance the relationship with the community.

What we want is for everyone to feel more secure.

The body cameras are both pro-civilian and pro-police.

Now this is not an inexpensive undertaking, but we worked with Richmond Police and Richmond City Council and identified the resources to get us here today.

And in many cities, after body cameras have been introduced, there has been a significant reduction in use-of-force incidents and a reduction in complaints about police.

So while this may not be the answer to everything that we need and that our officers need, we certainly think this is a good and positive addition to our efforts and we welcome this enhancement.

Our Chief will now tell you more about our transition to the use of this tool.

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