



Press Release

RE: Agency-wide Deployment of New Body-Worn Cameras and In-Car Camera Systems

Date: November 15, 2018

Over the last week, new body-worn cameras were issued to all sworn employees and non-sworn Animal Service Officers and Community Service Officers.

The Fremont Police Department is committed to an ongoing partnership with our community to provide the highest level of service based on trust and transparency. In 2014, as an alternative to in-car camera systems, the Department purchased a small number of body-worn cameras to be worn by traffic officers. In 2017, the program expanded to several specialized units, including our SWAT team and Special Investigations Unit. The pilot program approach allowed the Department and City IT to study and evaluate the effectiveness, as well as the technology, data storage and best practices.



Later that year, retired Chief Richard Lucero appointed a committee to evaluate a full scale department-wide deployment of body-worn cameras. The committee specifically looked at manufacturers who could also provide integrated in-car camera systems, which were due for replacement. A single digital video evidence storage solution was a large factor in the study.

After a year of research and completion of the formal request for proposal process, the committee recommended WatchGuard's integrated Vista WiFi body-worn cameras and 4RE panoramic in-car camera video system. Earlier this year, the Fremont City Council authorized approximately \$2 million for the purchase of the new systems.

The goal of the agency-wide distribution of body-worn cameras for officers is to enhance safety, improve agency accountability, reduce City liability, improve community/media perceptions, and advance prosecution. In terms of evidence collection, body worn cameras and in-car cameras provide an invaluable record of statements, physical evidence, and timeline of events during crimes in progress and other critical incidents. The program is managed by the Department's Special Operations Division and our policy, which includes an updated retention schedule, can be found online at <https://www.fremontpolice.org/policies>. All recorded media, images and audio are property of the Fremont Police Department and all requests for body-worn cameras systems files, shall be accepted and processed in accordance with Federal, State and Local statutes.

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