

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Proposal to authorize Police Department to use body worn cameras and identify additional opportunities for community involvement

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**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****DIRECTION**

Staff is seeking direction to present a resolution that: (1) authorizes Bellevue Police Department to use body worn cameras, consistent with any collective bargaining agreements and other necessary Council actions, discussed below; and (2) identifies additional community involvement opportunities for developing body worn camera use policies.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Direct staff to return with a resolution authorizing the use of body worn cameras by the Police Department, consistent with any collective bargaining agreements and other necessary Council actions and identifying additional community involvement opportunities.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

There is a nationwide movement of law enforcement agencies adopting body worn camera programs to enhance accountability, performance, and transparency. The Police Department wishes to deploy body worn cameras. Use of body worn cameras is consistent with the OIR Group recommendations and associated community feedback, as has been previously reported to the Council.

RCW 10.109.020 strongly encourages cities to adopt an ordinance or resolution authorizing the use of body worn cameras prior to their use by law enforcement. RCW 10.109.020 also provides that such ordinance or resolution should identify a community involvement process for providing input into the development of operational policies governing the use of body worn cameras.

Staff has drafted a proposed resolution, attached to this memo. If adopted, the resolution would meet the state law provisions by authorizing the Police Department to use body worn cameras, consistent with any collective bargaining agreements and with other actions the Council will need to take to implement the program, discussed below. The proposed resolution also identifies opportunities for community input into the development of operational policies, beyond the input obtained to date. Although there are additional decisions the Council will need to make to fully implement a body worn camera program, staff are presenting this now to enable the Council to provide timely input and address in a resolution, per state law, the process for additional community involvement in the

development of operational policies for use of body worn cameras.

In addition to the community feedback provided to OIR Group, the Police Department has recently obtained input from key community stakeholders, hosted a virtual community listening session, and created an *Engaging Bellevue* web page to solicit feedback on the community's thoughts on body worn camera programs. The Police Department proposes additional opportunities for community involvement through continued use of the *Engaging Bellevue* web page, as well as through additional meetings with the public, the Police Advisory Councils and other stakeholders.

Feedback garnered from the OIR Group and the body worn camera community engagement will be considered when developing the department's body worn camera operational policies. Policy development will also include engagement of the impacted labor unions within the Police Department.

A body worn camera steering committee made up of representatives from affected city departments had been established. If Council directs, staff will bring back at a future meeting a resolution for approval of Council. Upon approval of the resolution, the steering committee will move forward with implementation of a body worn camera program. Implementation steps include engaging in additional community involvement to develop policies and engaging in any required collective bargaining with affected labor unions. Staff will also move forward with negotiating a proposed contract with a body worn camera vendor. Staff will return for future Council direction and action to obtain approval of any proposed collective bargaining agreements, vendor contracts and costs, and additional Police Department, City Attorney's Office, City Clerk's Office, and Information Technology Department personnel needed to implement the program.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

RCW 10.109.020 strongly encourages cities to authorize the use of body worn cameras prior to its use by law enforcement. State law also provides that such ordinance or resolution should identify a community involvement process for providing input into the development of operational policies governing the use of body worn cameras.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact as the ability to use body worn cameras is contingent on future decisions of the Council related to labor negotiations, procurement and staffing.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Direct staff to return with a resolution authorizing the use of body worn cameras by the Police Department, consistent with any collective bargaining agreements and other necessary Council actions and identifying additional community involvement opportunities.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Resolution 10057

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A