



City of Tucson Citizen Police Advisory Review Board
PO Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

Mayor and Council
City of Tucson
255 West Alameda Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

September 8, 2015

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Citizen's Police Advisory Review Board has had a long standing interest in the use of body worn cameras. At our June, 2015 meeting we had a presentation on the cameras that TPD has issued to a limited amount of officers. Seventy have been purchased with grant money at an estimated cost of \$1600, for each camera and 1 year of storage. That is a start but with 5 divisions, and roughly 100 to 120 officers per division that breaks down to about 14 cameras per division. That is quite a shortfall.

As we look at confrontations with police officers in other cities, the Board feels it would be remiss if it did not encourage the City of Tucson to find some way to address this issue. It's easy to argue we do not have money to provide all street officers with cameras. Can we afford not to? How many cities with recent riots wish they had spent the money on cameras, instead of having to spend millions of dollars to rebuild? We know that cameras are not the answer to everything but they provide a measure of credibility when looking at a situation.

The Board suggests that the City of Tucson look at a private, public partnership to bring those cameras and storage to the City. An example of this partnership is the Tucson Police Foundation working with citizens and businesses to provide new vests for TPD; perhaps this is a model that can be used.

Equally important to having TPD officers equipped with body worn cameras, we also understand that the effective use of cameras is dependent on officers being able to get to the incident quickly and officers not being bogged down by outdated computer software. Therefore, we also urge Mayor and Council to provide the police department with the resources necessary for a quality fleet and improved computer software, so that these cameras can provide the utmost benefit to community-police relations.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Felicia Chew
CPARB Chairperson