

AGENCY RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: **Body-worn Cameras and Marin Law Enforcement-Follow Up Report**

Report Dated: **June 1, 2018**

Response Date: **July 5, 2018**

Agency Name: City of Mill Valley

Agenda Date: July 18, 2018

Response by: Jacqueline Graf-Reis

Title: Interim Police Chief

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: N/A
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings number: N/A
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered N/A have been implemented. (Attached a summary describing the implanted actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R/2 have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the near future.
- Recommendation numbered N/A require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameter of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)

- Recommendations numbered R/3, R/4 & R/5 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: July 5, 2018

Signed: 

Number of pages attached 2

ATTACHMENT 1

Recommendations:

R2.

Marin Law Enforcement agencies that have not posted their body-worn camera policies to their websites should do so by October 1, 2018.

- Recommendation 2 will be implemented by the listed date.

Currently, we are updating our policy to reflect our newly purchased body cameras. Our previous policy on body-worn camera was implemented in 2013 and included a system which is no longer utilized. Our revised policy will be posted on our City's website upon completion prior to October 1, 2018.

R3.

All Marin Law Enforcement agencies should seek to employ automated activation of body-worn cameras based on that agency's choice of activation modes.

- Recommendation 3 will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.

Mill Valley Police Department is one of the first agencies in Marin County to utilize audiovisual technology prior 2005. Our agency has not identified any reluctance to use body-worn camera technology since its introduction and has found it to be a beneficial tool for evidentiary value and resolving complaints.

We carefully researched automated activation technology prior to selecting our current product upgrade. We have deemed automated activations is not appropriate for our needs and would result in thousands of hours of unnecessary recorded activity each year and would generate significant costs to retain and manage such a volume of video data. Our newest system has no pre-event recording, is manually activated and storage is on site. These characteristics allows our agency a cost-effective means of procuring, implementing and maintaining current body-worn video technology in a manner consistent with our operational needs and fiscal constraints.

The circumstances under which a body-worn camera must be activated are described in our Body-worn Camera Policy. The policy is not intended to describe every possible situation in which a body-worn camera may be used, though there are many situations where its use is appropriate. The policy indicates that an officer should activate the system any time the officer is involved in an enforcement or detention situation or believes it would be appropriate or valuable to document the incident. Once activated, the body-worn camera should remain on until the incident has concluded. The policy describes the very limited circumstances under which a body-worn camera may be deactivated.

R4.

All Marin Law Enforcement agencies pursuing new or improved video technology should explore cooperative negotiating and resource sharing with other agencies to reduce costs.

- Recommendation 4 will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

Marin Law Enforcement agencies collectively cooperate with one another on a regular basis to meet our common goals. Partnering and savings on technology has been shared in the past on computer aided dispatching and report writing systems.

Mill Valley Police Department has already purchased its newest generation of body-worn cameras for our officers prior to the Civil Grand Jury's report. As with all technology, our last body-worn camera system was at the end of its lifecycle. Our selection of our current body-worn camera system was based on our agency's needs, the requirements of our policy, costs, durability, ease of use, data storage and security concerns. This purchase was also within our City's two-year budget cycle. Our agency will consider the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding the benefits of cooperative purchase and service sharing for future upgrades.

R5.

The County of Marin should work with the law enforcement agencies to form a county-wide buying group to reduce the costs of video technology.

- Recommendation 5 will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.

This recommendation has validity and will be considered in upgrading future video technology as stated in recommendation response number 4.