



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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September 27, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
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Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General

SUBJECT: NINTH REPORT BACK ON IMPLEMENTING BODY-WORN CAMERAS
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Purpose of Memorandum:

On January 9, 2020, the Office of Inspector General presented its first report back on the September 24, 2019, Board of Supervisors motion directing the Office of Inspector General, in consultation with other County Departments, to monitor and report on: (1) the progress of the implementation of technology infrastructure upgrades at patrol stations and other locations as needed for body-worn cameras; and (2) the receipt of a final body-worn camera policy from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Sheriff's Department), with such policy to address the elements raised by the Board of Supervisors. This is the Office of Inspector General's ninth report back on the progress of the Sheriff's Department's implementation of body-worn cameras.

Body-Worn Camera Equipment Procurement and Deployment

As of August 31, 2023, the Sheriff's Department has issued 4,195 body-worn cameras (BWCs) to patrol deputies. The slight increase from the last report reflects changes in the number of active deputies in the field, not any changes in which units are outfitted with BWCs. Some specialized units, including the Special Enforcement Bureau, the Narcotics Bureau, and the Major Crimes Bureau still do not have BWCs, as reported previously.

In the previous report, we highlighted that delays in receipt of BWC equipment and equipment for infrastructure upgrades delayed deployment of BWCs to County Service Bureau and Community College Bureau scheduled for completion by the end of 2022.¹ The Sheriff's Department then projected that it would deploy BWCs to these units in summer 2023, but now projects deployment in October or November of 2023.

From October 1, 2020, when the Sheriff's Department first outfitted units with BWCs, to August 19, 2023, the Sheriff's Department reports uploading 4,561,229 videos to Evidence.com.

About a year ago, the BWC Unit within the Sheriff's Department began auditing the performance and compliance of patrol deputies use of BWCs. The BWC Unit has audited a different station each month to examine issues such as: the compliance rate of the deputies activating and de-activating the cameras as required by policy, properly tagging and identification of videos when uploaded to Evidence.com, and proper maintenance of daily inspection logs and equipment. The BWC unit then makes recommendations based on its finding as to how the unit or station could improve.

Discipline for BWC Policy Violations

Over the current reporting period from February 1, 2023, to August 1, 2023, the Sheriff's Department reports that it opened 43 administrative investigations against deputies for violating BWC policies.² This represents a significant increase from the previous six-month reporting period, during which the Sheriff's Department reported opening only 7 administrative investigations for BWC policy violations.

Over this reporting period, the Sheriff's Department also reports it finalized discipline for eight deputies for violating BWC policies. This discipline ranged from written reprimand to discharge (in an incident involving violations of several policies, including the BWC policy).

The Sheriff's Department reports that it is currently working on updating its BWC policies and stated that it will provide the Office of Inspector General a draft proposed changes for recommendations and comments. As of the date of this report, the Office of Inspector General has not received any draft policy changes.

¹ [*Office of Inspector General's Eighth Report Back on Implementing Body-Worn Cameras in Los Angeles*](#)

² Generally, it may take up to a year for the Sheriff's Department to complete an administrative investigation. Only after such an investigation is completed, will discipline be issued based on what the investigation uncovers.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at (213) 974-6100.

c: Robert Luna, Sheriff
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
Danielle Vappie, Interim Executive Director, Sheriff's Civilian Oversight
Commission