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September 24, 2025

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

FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General

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

Purpose of Memorandum

On September 24, 2019, the Board of Supervisors passed a 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 thirteenth report back on the progress of the Sheriff's Department's implementation of body-worn cameras (BWCs).

Body-Worn Camera Equipment Procurement and Deployment

Since our [last report, dated March 25, 2025](#), the Sheriff's Department has made significant progress in deploying BWCs to Community Colleges Bureau and County Services Bureau. These two Bureaus, which presented infrastructure challenges, including asbestos abatement, that delayed deployment, are now fully equipped: Community Colleges Bureau deployed their BWCs on April 7, 2025, and County Services Bureau on July 24, 2025. With the addition of these units, the Department now has 4,450 BWCs deployed in the field.

The Department plans next to equip the “Specialized Units,” including the Special Operations Bureau and Emergency Operations Bureau, and investigative units within Detective Division. It reports that it does not need to make any additional purchases of BWCs as existing vacancies and staff reductions have freed up enough equipment to meet the needs of these units. The Department is in the process of revising its Manual of Policy and Procedure (MPP) sections covering BWC policies to incorporate these units. The Department has been in negotiations with the labor unions and the Department of Justice monitors to codify these draft policies.¹ (Office of Inspector General personnel do not attend these meetings and are not privy to the discussions on revisions or additions to these draft policies). Once the revisions are finalized, the Department plans to outfit employees in these units with BWCs.

Body-Worn Cameras in Custody

As noted in our previous report, the Department has purchased a total of 4,641 cameras for custody operations; to date, these cameras remain undeployed. The primary obstacle was the lack of an agreement between the Department and the employee labor unions regarding policies for use and activation of BWCs in the custodial environment. The Department reports that through negotiations with employee labor unions, it was able to finalize a Custody Body-Worn Camera Policy, with the adoption of [Custody Division Manual Section 3-06/055.15](#), which was formally approved and published on September 11, 2025.

The Department has since initiated preparations for deployment of cameras to custody staff, including organizing and delivering training for custody personnel. Deployment of BWCs in custodial facilities is expected to begin within the coming weeks.

To prepare for the eventual deployment, the Department’s Body-Worn Camera unit continues its work to ensure proper infrastructure to support technology is in place within the custodial facilities to support the BWCs. These upgrades include building docking rooms for personnel to dock their BWCs and installing fiber optic cables that are necessary for the video uploads to the cloud storage system, Evidence.com. Infrastructure upgrades have been completed at Twin Towers Correctional Facility, Inmate Reception Center, Men’s Central Jail, and Century Regional Detention Facility;

¹ When adopting policies that affect the terms and conditions of employment, the Sheriff’s Department must meet and confer with its employees’ unions to discuss the policies or their effects. As set forth by California Government Code section 3505, Los Angeles County section 5.04.080, and the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the parties, employee union representative(s) and the Sheriff’s Department are obligated to meet to discuss policy changes that could affect wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.

leaving the North County Correctional Facility and Pitchess Detention Center outstanding.

BWC Unit Responsibilities and Staffing

The responsibilities of the BWC Unit have expanded since the Office of Inspector General first began its reporting in 2020. Currently, the unit manages all the patrol-related BWC operations, such as responding to deputy-involved shootings to take possession of BWC video, maintaining all equipment, conducting training, managing equipment upgrades, and maintaining the BWC dashboard. It will assume responsibility for BWC operations for custody-related matters once the cameras are deployed in the custody setting.

In addition to managing BWC equipment, training, and operations, the unit is responsible for the management of newly acquired Taser 10s. The unit assisted with procuring 3,197 Taser 10s and now oversees the equipment inventory and management of the Tasers, which includes items such as the Taser training equipment, virtual reality equipment, Taser 10 cartridges, and batteries. In addition, the unit conducts statistical analysis of the field deployments of the new Tasers and assisted with the 8-hour Taser 10 training classes for Department members. The unit reports it is working with the County Chief Executive Office to determine the additional staffing needs for when BWCs are eventually deployed in the custody facilities. Taser use reports are available on the Sheriff's Department [Taser Deployment Dashboard](#).²

Body-Worn Cameras and Technological Advances

Given the Sheriff's Department's reported difficulties in recruitment of sufficient staff, the Department may consider whether technological tools exist to assist its personnel in viewing captured video. A 2024 National Public Radio (NPR) article highlighted how companies like Truleo have developed AI software that is designed to assist law enforcement in analyzing millions of hours of BWC footage.³ This specific software can identify instances of profanity or unprofessional or abusive language within videos, which can flag the need for performance mentoring, without the need for significant staff

² As noted in our report, [Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department – April to June 2025](#) (August 26, 2025), the Sheriff's Department's Taser Dashboard reports Taser usage by date range with options to narrow the results by practice area (such as Patrol or Custody), patrol station or facility, incident type, or city. Beginning in July 2024, the Department began including in that data the "Result of the Use of Force" (i.e., whether the use resulted in serious injury or death).

³ [Kaste, Martin, Human reviewers can't keep up with police bodycam videos. AI now gets the job, National Public Radio \(September 24, 2024\).](#)

time to review and flag such issues and does so in a more reasonable time frame. AI solutions can process the videos, flag videos with potential issues, and escalate any issues up for supervisor review and mentoring for corrective action. According to Truleo, 30 law enforcement agencies have already adopted this technology.⁴

In California, [Vehicle Code section 2806.5](#) requires that peace officers “state the reason for a [traffic or pedestrian] stop” before beginning questioning and that stop data, which includes the stated reason, be reported to California Department of Justice. AI review of BWC video can assist with ensuring compliance with the law and Sheriff’s Department policy.⁵

Research by Jennifer Eberhardt, a psychology professor at Stanford, cited by NPR found that, “encounters were more likely to escalate when officers started the stop by giving orders, rather than reasons for the interaction.” Using AI to review BWC video can act as an early warning system for both bad and good behavior. At least one early study by Ian Adams of the University of South Carolina suggests that when officers know AI is used to review BWC video, it raises the rate of professionalism and lowers the rate of unprofessional conduct.⁶

The Office of Inspector General asked the Department whether it currently uses, or plans to use, similar technological tools to analyze or audit its extensive video archive. The Department stated that it does not use such technology and currently has no plans to use such a system, but that may change in the future with the advancement of these technologies and with the needs of the Department.⁷

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ [Government Code section 12525.5](#) requires stop data, including the reason for the stop, be reported to the California Department of Justice. [MPP 3-01/140.00](#) incorporates the law into Sheriff’s Department policy.

⁶ [Kaste, Martin, Human reviewers can't keep up with police bodycam videos. AI now gets the job, National Public Radio \(September 24, 2024\).](#)

⁷ In response to a draft of this report, the Sheriff’s Department provided the following response: *While the Department is not currently utilizing AI-based technology to review body-worn camera (BWC) footage, we maintain a robust manual review process to ensure accountability and policy compliance. All risk management incidents (including vehicle pursuits, foot pursuits, use of force incidents, and personnel complaints) are subject to video review. Additionally, Patrol Operations conduct random audits of BWC footage, reviewing a total of four videos per shift: two for general BWC compliance and two specifically to ensure adherence to California Assembly Bill 2773 and Vehicle Code Section 2806.5. which requires California peace officers to state the reason for a stop before questioning, aiming to improve transparency and reduce escalation during law enforcement encounters. As indicated in your draft, the Department remains open to evaluating emerging technologies that may enhance operational efficiency and will continue to assess such tools as they evolve to meet the Department’s needs.*

If you have any questions regarding this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 974-6100.

c: Robert G. Luna, Sheriff
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Edward Yen, Executive Officer
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director, Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission