



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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March 21, 2023

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

FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General

SUBJECT: EIGHTH 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 (Sheriff's Department), with such policy to address the elements raised by the Board of Supervisors. This is the Office of Inspector General's eighth 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 February 24, 2023, the Sheriff's Department has deployed 4,115 body-worn cameras (BWCs) to patrol deputies. This total includes recent deployments to specialized units. The newly elected Sheriff, Robert Luna, has made it a goal to equip additional specialized units, such as the Special Enforcement Bureau, the Narcotics Bureau, and the Major Crimes Bureau, with BWCs. Due to the nature of the work, BWCs will not be employed during every operation of these specialized units. For example, detectives working in an undercover capacity would not be outfitted with BWCs. Three specialized units not being considered for BWCs are the Internal Criminal

Investigations Bureau, the Internal Affairs Bureau, and the Homicide Bureau because the policy of these units is to record all interviews.

While costs for BWCs and supporting technology equipment have reportedly increased, the Sheriff's Department reports adequate funds are available to complete deployment and cover the expansion of BWCs to the specialized units.

Delays in receipt of BWC equipment and equipment for infrastructure upgrades have resulted in some units not being fully outfitted, including the County Services Bureau and the Community College Bureau; deployment to these units was originally scheduled for completion by December 31, 2022. The updated date for deployment is now the summer of 2023.

In previous reports, the Office of Inspector General raised the lack of deployment of BWCs to the Operation Safe Streets Bureau's Gang Surveillance Unit (GSU). In the Office of Inspector General's [Sixth Report Back on Implementing Body-Worn Cameras in Los Angeles County](#), the Office of Inspector General reported that the Sheriff's Department had not deployed BWCs to GSU deputies because these deputies had been deputized by the U.S. Marshals, necessitating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal government to outfit the team members with BWCs. In October 2022, the Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Marshals entered a MOU, allowing for the GSU team to be outfitted with BWCs.

The Sheriff's Department explored the feasibility and benefits of expansion of BWC deployment to include personnel working in a custodial setting. From February 2022 to May 2022, the Sheriff's Department conducted a pilot project at Men's Central Jail (MCJ) on the 2000 and 3000 floors. In the first month, the Sheriff's Department outfitted and trained nine supervisors on using BWCs. In March 2022, the project was expanded to include 41 deputies who worked on these floors at MCJ. Upon completion of the pilot project, the Sheriff's Department conducted surveys of the employees, conducted a study and review of BWC use and video uploads during the test months, and conducted studies of the facilities to determine the feasibility of upgrading the infrastructure in the antiquated custodial facilities. The Sheriff's Department determined that the pilot project was a success and now seeks to move forward with expanding the deployment of BWCs to staff in its custodial facilities, which will require outfitting 4,107 custodial staff and installing 2,347 computers and monitors to handle the software required to interface with the BWCs. Extensive infrastructure upgrades to the facilities are also necessary. Custody personnel were not included in the Sheriff's Department's initial budget request

for BWCs, requiring the Sheriff's Department to seek additional funding in its budget in order to deploy BWCs throughout its custodial facilities. The Sheriff's Department is preparing an estimate of the final costs required to fund such an expansion.

As of February 22, 2023, the Sheriff's Department reports uploading 3,515,011 videos to evidence.com, the cloud storage site that stores BWC video. According to the Sheriff's Department, there are no reports of videos being lost or corrupted during uploading or viewing on the site.

Discipline for BWC Policy Violations

From August 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023, the Sheriff's Department reports that it opened seven administrative investigations against deputies for violating BWC policies.¹ During the same time period, the Sheriff's Department reports that it finalized discipline for three deputies for violating BWC policies. According to the Sheriff's Department, the discipline for these three deputies was a suspension varying from 1 to 6 days (the 6-day suspension was due to underlying conduct in addition to violating BWC policies). The discipline reported here resulted from administrative investigations investigated by the Sheriff's Department's Internal Affairs Bureau. There may be instances in which supervisors informally counseled deputies for BWC policy violations through a Performance Log Entry² or other informal counseling.

From August 1, 2022, to January 31, 2023, the Sheriff's Department reports that there were five Category 3 use of force³ incidents, which include deputy-involved shootings, during which deputies allegedly failed to activate their BWCs. During one such incident, the BWCs' batteries for both the involved deputies had depleted by the time the deputy-involved shooting occurred due to the deputies working a particularly long shift. The

¹ 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.

² A Performance Log Entry (PLE) is the hard copy documentation of a supervisory notation about a deputy's performance, including commendations, weaknesses, career guidance, and training." (See United States Department of Justice, [Antelope Valley Monitoring Team Monitor's Audit of Community Complaints](#), January 2018, at page 5.) A PLE is not formal discipline. The intent is that the information documented in the PLE may be incorporated into an employee performance evaluation. If it is not, there is no requirement that it be maintained beyond the evaluation period of one year.

³ Per Sheriff's Department Manual of Policy and Procedures Section 3-10/038.00, "Reportable Use of Force and Force Categories," Category 3 Use of Force encompasses all deputy-involved shootings, any use of force which resulted in death or hospitalization of a person, all incidents where a Sheriff's Department personnel intentionally kicked or struck or caused a person's head or neck area to be struck by a fixed object, skeletal fractures, and canine bites.

other four incidents are being reviewed by the Sheriff's Department executive staff and Internal Affairs Bureau to identify and address any policy violations, including whether to impose discipline.

Office of Inspector General Access to BWC Recordings

By order of Sheriff Luna, the Sheriff's Department has now provided the Office of Inspector General access to evidence.com and Office of Inspector General staff are now able to view body-worn camera recordings.

Amendments to Sheriff's Department BWC Policies

Proposed amendments to the BWC policies written under the previous Sheriff's administration were recently provided to the Office of Inspector General. Office of Inspector General staff are reviewing the proposed policy amendments in order to provide recommendations as the revisions were drafted without the input of the Office of Inspector General.

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

MH:ec

c: Robert Luna, Sheriff
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Commission