



**BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**

**Public Safety Commission**

**Recommendation Number: 20160705-003**

**City of Austin's Body Camera Policy**

**WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council on June 23, 2016 approved a \$17.2M contract (of \$12.2 million for body cameras and \$5 million for cell phones) authorizing the Austin Police Department to advance the purchase of the first round of body worn cameras for police officers, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Austin City Council unanimously adopted RESOLUTION NO. 20160609-053 on June 9, 2016, stating the Council's desire for the Austin Police Department to have well-defined policies around body camera video release that reflect a consistent commitment to transparency, individual rights, and fairness for both officers and the public, and;

**WHEREAS**, RESOLUTION NO. 20160609-053 directed the City Manager to conduct stakeholder meetings with community members on the policies related to the release of body camera video, and;

**WHEREAS**, RESOLUTION NO. 20160609-053 directed the City Manager to present the results of this stakeholder process to Council no later than 120 days after passage of this resolution, and;

**WHEREAS**, on June 7 and June 20, 2016, a coalition of non-profits and community groups met with members of Austin Police Department, along with representatives of the City Attorney's office, a representative of the District Attorney's office, and staff of the Police Monitor to discuss ongoing changes to Austin's body worn camera policy, and;

**WHEREAS**, there is an ongoing need to review and assess Austin's body camera policy in accordance with applicable state laws and evolving considerations on body cameras, and;

**WHEREAS**, involving community stakeholders in the process can assist with building trust between the Austin Police Department and the community, and;

**WHEREAS**, informing residents and victims about police-worn body cameras and their legal right to request video footage and their right to request not to be filmed will enhance community trust, so therefore

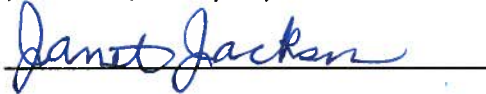
**Be it resolved that the Public Safety Commission recommends that the Austin City Council direct the City Manager to:**

1. Hold quarterly meetings during 2017 between Austin Police Department and community stakeholders on body camera issues to further address transparency and accountability issues; request that Austin Police Department reach out to stakeholders when considering changes to body camera policies as much as is practical and if not practical, brief stakeholders at quarterly meetings regarding changes made to the body camera policy during the prior quarter; and report to council at the end of 2017 regarding the quarterly meetings and whether the meetings should continue in 2018.
2. Recommend public forum sessions to update the public on body camera policy with Austin Police Department and stakeholders involved in the process of creating the body camera policy; and to report the public input from these forums to the Council.
3. Recommend the creation of a body camera public awareness campaign that includes information on how the public can request body camera footage, how the public can consent to release of footage of them, and how the public can request that they not be filmed, that is accessible in multiple languages and to people with disabilities, and to invite participation in that process by appropriate organizations and individuals, including the Office of the Police Monitor; and to begin educating the public no later than January 1, 2017.
4. Evaluate the body camera program two years after implementation and report to council regarding the cost and impact of the program including the final cost versus projected costs, the impact on citizen complaints, the impact on prosecutions, and the impact on community trust and the relationship between the Austin Police Department and the community.

**Date of approval:** July 5, 2016

**Record of the vote:** Unanimous on a 7-0 vote (Commissioners Webber, Nunez, Worsham, Scruggs, Rossmo, Gonzales, and Tyree)

**Attest:**



Janet Jackson, Public Safety Commission Staff Liaison