

Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Peter Simpson

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Executive Summary

This program provides funding for review of police Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage. In order to safeguard the rights of the accused and protect crime victims, law enforcement footage should be reviewed prior to charging. This promotes better charging decisions and increases police accountability and equity in our community. Gresham Police, Port of Portland Police, Portland State, and the Oregon State Police deploy BWCs, generating thousands of hours of footage.

Program Description

Currently, MCDA BWC Unit staff reviews approximately 100% of BWC footage for felony-level cases and approximately 40% of BWC footage for all cases submitted to MCDA. During the PPB BWC Pilot Program, MCDA BWC Unit staff only reviewed approximately 21% of the felony-level BWC footage submitted prior to making a charging decision. Duplication and distribution of body-worn camera evidence is accomplished by non-lawyer staff. Once PPB and MCSO join Gresham, Port of Portland, Portland State, and OSP, there will be approximately 1,055 BWC deployed in the community.

The BWC DDA and Investigative staff of the BWC Unit review the most serious cases first focusing on felony domestic violence cases, person crime felony cases and officer use of force. The BWC video footage is reviewed to write summaries of evidence and flags potential legal and constitutional issues surrounding suspect statements, search and seizure and officer conduct, among others. The written review is then communicated to the reviewing DDA who will use it to completely assess all the submitted evidence in the case and make a charging decision. The BWC DDA oversees the legal issues with a BWC program including the review of police protocols, policies for viewing of recordings, discovery rules, and evaluates the cases for protective orders and the release of videos for Freedom of Information requests. The BWC Investigative staff edit video footage for trial and redact video footage before it is released to protect the identity of vulnerable witnesses or to comply with the mandate of a court order. The BWC legal assistants are responsible for BWC discovery to defense and verifying the audit trail to prevent copying or altering BWC video evidence.

In order to fulfill obligations to the community, when properly resourced, all BWC footage should be viewed prior to charging a community member with a crime. BWC footage allows DDAs to view crime scenes and witness/victim/suspect interviews through an unfiltered lens. Police conduct and interaction with the community can be meaningfully monitored and procedures put in place to increase police accountability, reduce disparity and increase equity. Transparency and system confidence increase by virtue of additional objective evidence available for subsequent review.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Hours of body camera footage reviewed	1,207	1,000	1,500	638
Output	Hours of body camera footage received	3,866	3,000	8,000	17,800

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Personnel	\$502,878	\$0	\$545,998	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$11,577	\$0	\$264,032	\$0
Internal Services	\$74,065	\$0	\$52,634	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$588,520	\$0	\$862,664	\$0
Program Total:	\$588,520		\$862,664	
Program FTE	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 15205A Body Worn Cameras - Gresham

This program offer has moved from Division 2 to the Investigations Division.