New Lenox Police Department

AXON BODY WORN CAMERAS

Introductions

Louis Alessandrini
Chief of Police

- 26 years in Law Enforcement
- Joined the NLPD in 2005
- 2010 - Patrol Sgt
- 2013 - Investigations Sgt
- 2017 - Deputy Chief of Administration
- Nov. 2020 Appointed Chief of Police
- FBINA Session #269

Micah Nuesse
Deputy Chief of Administration

- Joined the NLPD in 2007
- Field Training Officer
- Officer in Charge
- Investigator
- Will County SWAT Team Member
- SPSC Class #448
- Appointed Deputy Chief Nov. 2020

New Lenox Facts

New Lenox Population	29,000+
Size	16 Square Miles
Police Department Sworn Officers	37
Police to Citizen Contacts in 2020	30,346
Use of Force incidents in 2020	17
Use of Force per police contact	.056%

NEW LENOX

History of Body Worn Cameras (BWC)

- Early 2000s the first versions of the BWC started to appear
  - Transparency between officers and citizens
  - Hold officers accountable for their actions
  - Clear officers of false complaints

NLPD & Body Worn Cameras

- 2014 created BWC policy in anticipation of acquiring BWCs
- Previous administration took a "wait and see" approach
  - technology was new and rapidly developing
  - concerns over legislation
  - cost concerns
- Low number of Use of Force incidents by the NLPD
- Low number of citizen complaints against NLPD officers
- Strong Support of the NLPD by the community

NLPD & Body Worn Cameras (cont.)

- 2020 – The decision to purchase BWCs is made. NLPD becomes one of the very first police departments in Will County to have Body Worn Cameras
- Decision to implement BWCs is based on:
  - Multiple high profile police incidents across the country
  - High tensions between police and communities
  - Protests and civil unrest nationwide
  - NLPD officers ASKING for BWCs

Why We Chose AXON

- AXON is the leader in the field
  - most established company
  - market place stability
- Two previous Staff Studies on BWCs done by NLPD Deputy Chiefs
- Trial of Axon BWCs by a neighboring department – favorable results
- Familiarity with Axon products
  - NLPD officers already using Axon Tasers

By the Numbers

- AXON Body 3 Cameras Purchased — 37
  - Cost of Axon Body 3 Camera (AB3) — $699.00 ea.
  - 8 Bay Charging/Transfer Dock (4) — $1495.00 ea.
  - Vehicle Signal Unit (15) — $279.00 ea.
  - Signal Sidearm Kit (34) — $249.00 ea.
  - Tech Assurance plan (TAP) AB3 (34) — $268.00 ea.
  - 8 Bay Charging/Transfer Doc (4) Assurance Plan — $354.00 ea.
  - Storage on Evidence.com — $3600.00 per year

Payment

- Total Cost $172,909.02
- Staggered 5 year payment plan
  - Year 1 - $61,000
  - Years 2 - 5 - $28,210

- Year 1 paid entirely through NL SWARM Safety Grant Program

New Illinois Law – BWC Implementation Timeframe

- Municipality Size
  - 500,000 or more
  - 100,000 – 500,000
  - 50,000 – 100,000
  - Under 50,000
- Implementation Date
  - January 1, 2022
  - January 1, 2023
  - January 1, 2024
  - January 1, 2025

Concerns Over New Illinois Law

- Officers not allowed to review video prior to writing police reports
- Officers potentially being charged with Class 3 Felony for failing to activate their BWC
- If BWCs are not implemented by designated time, municipalities could lose grant funding

Additional Axon BWC Features

- Axon Signal Unit
  - Lights Activation
  - Rifle Release Activation
- Axon Signal Sidearm Kit
  - Holster Attachment
- Axon Viewer App

The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly

- The Good:
  - Implementation process was relatively smooth,
  - Officer buy-in
  - Axon customer service
- The Bad:
  - Officers properly labelling/categorizing videos
  - Officers adjusting to the additional features
- The Ugly:
  - Sticker Shock
  - Additional Responsibilities – FOIA etc.

Considerations

- New job responsibilities
  - FOIA
  - Daily digital maintenance considerations
  - Equipment maintenance
- Patrol Division
  - Outfitting
  - Training
  - Continual support

Recommendations

- Take your time
  - Look at different vendors
  - Consider different features that each have
- Consider a BWC company who's product you already use
- Request a Test Period with the Product
- Get Creative with securing funds – Safety Grants, Asset Forfeiture Money, Federal Grants?

Thank you.