

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department



Body Camera Pilot Program

Pilot Program Goals

- Familiarize the Department with the Technology
- Field-Test the technology
- Develop and test a policy
- Better understand the technical/IT/data requirements of a BWC program

Technology

- TASER Body Cameras

Axon Flex



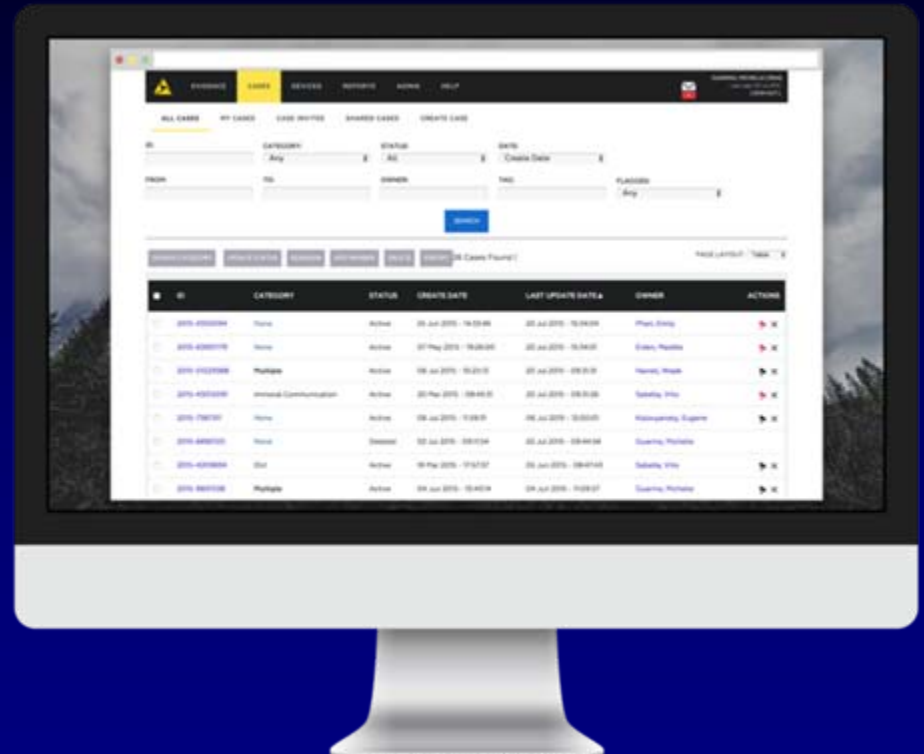
Axon



- Evidence.com (Cloud Data Storage)

Evidence.com

- Cloud Storage solution for BWC Data/Video
- Collect: Upload content in any file format, from any device.
- Transfer: Automatically ingest content from Axon cameras and hard drives.
- Manage: Keep information organized and tag it with the correct metadata.
- Retrieve: Find evidence quickly with simple search features.
- Share: Grant access to specific people, or share content with a secure link.



Pilot Program Design

- 90 Day Program
 - Three (3) groups of 24 Sergeants
 - Sergeants selected from District and Specialized Assignments
 - Sergeants selected from all three watches
 - Two different BWC Models deployed
- Pilot/Test Policy Developed
- Data Collection
 - Weekly Surveys
 - BWC Use Reports

Pilot Program Groups

- 3 Groups
 - Group 1 (Began December 14, 2015)
 - Group 2 (Began January 13, 2016)
 - Group 3 (Began February 10, 2016)
- Group Characteristics
 - 12 Flex/12 Axon BWCs (24) deployed in each group
 - 3 Sergeants from each District (18), 3 Sergeants from SWAT, and 3 Sergeants from Special Ops.

Training

- Each group participated in a training session:
 - TASER staff: provided information specific to the operation of the BWC and Evidence.com
 - Department IT: provided information on technical assistance and reporting of problems with technology
 - Department Planning and Research: provided information regarding the Special Order and the specifics of the policy for operation of the cameras

Policy

- Special Order 5-34 was developed using:
 - San Diego PD's policy
 - Recommendations from PERF
 - Recommendations from DOJ
 - Review of over 30 different PD Policies/Pilot Reports
 - Participation in national roundtable discussions
- Covers:
 - Camera Position
 - Mandatory Recording
 - Prohibited Recording
 - Evidence/Video Management

Pilot Program Evaluation

- An audit is completed weekly to evaluate use of the cameras during the Pilot Program
 - Videos are reviewed
 - Use reports are run
- Sergeants complete a weekly survey

Videos



Videos



Use Statistics

Group 1 & 2 Total*

Total Uploads

Number of Videos 708

Hours of Videos 101.13

GB of Videos 75.03

Active Evidence

Number of Active Videos 708

Hours of Active Videos 101.13

GB of Active Videos 75.03

Average Per Day

Number of Videos Uploaded 12.42

Hours of Video Uploaded 1.77

GB of Video Uploaded 1.32

* Group 3 still in progress

Use Statistics

Group 1

Total Uploads

Number of Videos	300
Hours of Videos	47.31
GB of Videos	34.84

Active Evidence

Number of Active Videos	300
Hours of Active Videos	47.31
GB of Active Videos	34.84

Average Per Day

Number of Videos Uploaded	10.34
Hours of Video Uploaded	1.63
GB of Video Uploaded	1.20

Group 2

Total Uploads

Number of Videos	408
Hours of Videos	53.82
GB of Videos	40.19

Active Evidence

Number of Active Videos	408
Hours of Active Videos	53.82
GB of Active Videos	40.19

Average Per Day

Number of Videos Uploaded	14.57
Hours of Video Uploaded	1.92
GB of Video Uploaded	1.44

Annual Estimations

	Sergeant Pilot^	Calls For Service Data*
Number of Videos Uploaded	151,122	531,442**
Hours of Video Uploaded	21,586	311,746***
GB of Video Uploaded	16,015	779,365****

^estimations based on a deployment of 800 cameras

*2013 calls for service and self-initiated activities

**calculated w/ only one officer per event

*** calculated w/ an average call time of 35 minutes

****24min/GB

Survey Information

- Participants are emailed an electronic survey based on research completed through the *Smart Policing Initiative* (SPI) to be completed each week
- The Survey consists of 37 statements, in which Sergeants indicate level of agreement
 - E.g. *Citizens are more cooperative when they know I wear a BWC, BWC Equipment is easy to use, etc.*
- The higher the score the more officers DISAGREED with the statement. The LOWER the score the more they AGREED.

Survey Information (cont.)

- The Survey also contains 5 free response questions.
 - E.g. *Please indicate what you believe to be the STRENGTHS of wearing a BWC, Please generally describe your experience wearing the BWC during the pilot period, etc.*
- The Surveys have provided good feedback and will help the Department to develop a Department-wide program in the future

Survey Information (cont.)

- Sergeant Responses/Comments include:
 - Training:
 - *For younger and more inexperienced officers, it can be used as a training aid to catch bad habits or mistakes being made and correct them early on*
 - Evidentiary benefits:
 - *It can be used for evidentiary use in cases where the camera captured an event and makes it easier for the officer to document*
 - *I believe the body camera has the potential to record video footage of Officers' interactions with suspects during criminal investigations and arrests. This footage can then be used to corroborate the Officers' version of events during the warrant application process and during court proceedings.*
 - Safety Concerns:
 - *It could cause the officer to hesitate, causing a safety concern. Limited field of view.*

Survey Information (cont.)

- Sergeant Responses include:
 - BWC Design related comments:
 - *I am wearing the Flex model. It would not be my choice if I were issued a camera. There are too many hanging parts. It takes too long to put on and take off. It is hard to insure the footage is clear. I have issues with the sound captured by the video. I could hear the radio but not the people on scene.*
 - *The flex camera system has been a terrible fit for me. While there are several mounting options they all seem to lack the ease of the self contained body camera.*
 - Citizen/Officer contact concerns:
 - *Citizens don't want to talk to you once they find out you have a camera on.*
 - *Possible reluctance from certain victims/witnesses to make statements to officers*
 - *Other Officers seem to avoid me at all costs*

Evaluation Limitations

- This Pilot Program involves Sergeants
 - Nature of call response and responsibilities differ for Patrol Officers
 - Sergeants are typically not the first person on the scene
 - Many calls require/have more than one officer responding; which will result in 3,4,5, etc. videos per call when cameras are rolled out to officers
 - Results are difficult to generalize; use CFS data to supplement
- Lack of feedback from those citizens that have been on camera
 - SLMPD/Public Information Unit will address this by collecting feedback from citizens via Web submissions for two weeks.

Lessons Learned

- Officers tend to prefer the chest mount option over the eye-glass mount
- Cloud storage of video makes video review and evidence handling process more efficient and safe for both the officer and public
- A back-end solution that ties the video to calls for service in CAD and I/LEADS is imperative to guarantee proper classification of videos, evidence retention, and efficient data management
- Sunshine requests for video and video related information will require a substantial amount of Department time and resources to fulfill
- SLMPD, SLPOA, Citizens all have similar concerns regarding video retention and privacy
- Missouri Law is woefully behind regarding the handling of video evidence and retention