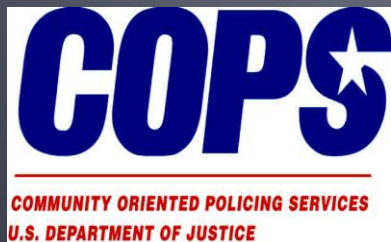


Guidelines to help formulate model policy for  
an evolving technology

# Body-Worn Cameras



# Evolving Use of Body Worn Cameras



- Officer-involved shooting in Three Rivers – Officers discuss the benefits of body cameras in the wake of a fatal shooting.
- Ft. Worth deploys 200 body cameras, plans to deploy 500 cameras over the next 3 years.
- NYPD ordered to implement body-worn cameras – Many believe that cameras provide more accurate documentation of encounters, which can benefit officers.

# PERF Survey



- **Survey Purpose:** To measure police department usage of body-worn cameras across the country and identify the major issues associated with such use.
- **Survey Pool:** 500 agencies received survey invite
- **Survey Respondents:** 254 agencies responded (50 % response rate)

# Survey Results



- Of the 254 responding agencies, **75 percent** do not currently use body-worn cameras.
- Of the 254 responding agencies, only 63 agencies (**25 percent**) currently use body-worn cameras.
- Nearly **one-third** of agencies that use body-worn cameras do not possess written policies

# Survey Results



According to survey results, the **#1 reason** why departments obtain body worn cameras for agency personnel:

*"To provide accurate documentation of encounters."*

PERF Survey Results, Policy Reviews &  
Interviews

# Perceived Benefits of BWCs



POLICE EXECUTIVE  
RESEARCH FORUM

# Accountability & Transparency



- Exonerates officers who are targets of citizen complaints and reduces the number of lawsuits against the department

# Accountability & Transparency



- **Assists chiefs with identifying and correcting systemic problems or individual officer issues**



# Accountability & Transparency



- Serves as a teaching tool to train officers on proper strategies and techniques

# Efficiency



- **Captures valuable evidence for investigations and trials**
  - **More accurate documentation of scenes, interviews, and encounters.**

# Chief Tony Farrar



- Rialto, CA Police Department Study
  - 12 month controlled experiment
  - Research questions:
    - *Will wearing body worn cameras reduce the number of complaints against officers compared to the control group?*
    - *Will wearing the BWCs reduce the number (instances) of use-of-force compared to the control group?*

# Additional Considerations



- **Unions & Officer Buy-In**
  - Alleviating “Big Brother” concerns
  - Greensboro, NC Video Clip

# Additional Considerations



- **Impact on Community : Accountability vs. Right of Privacy**
  - Should citizens have an expectation of privacy?
  - Should officers have expectation of privacy in certain circumstances?

# Additional Considerations



- **Accountability vs. Right of Privacy:  
Consent to Record**
  - **Single-party consent:** only one party must consent to oral communication
  - **Two-party consent:** all parties must consent

# Additional Considerations



## Two-party consent states

California	Florida	Massachusetts	New Hampshire
Connecticut	Illinois	Michigan	Pennsylvania
Delaware	Maryland	Montana	Washington

\*Source: NIJ, A Primer on Body-Worn Cameras for Law Enforcement (September 2012)

# Additional Considerations



- **Engaging the Community**
  - Can cameras improve relationship with community?
  - Potential to harm?
  - Public awareness of body cameras



# Additional Considerations



- **Community Impact**
  - Impact on Procedural Justice

# Additional Considerations



- **Financial costs and constraints**
  - Cost of equipment
  - Data storage costs
  - Is it worth it?