



CURTIS W. McCOY
MAYOR

Mansfield Police Department

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GARY HOBBS
CHIEF OF POLICE

Re: Mansfield Police Officers Begin Wearing Integrated Body Cameras

Mansfield Police Chief Gary Hobbs announces that Mansfield Police Officers have begun wearing new body-worn cameras designed to work seamlessly as a single integrated system with the department's new in-car video camera system, capturing synchronized video from multiple vantage points. The integrated system is manufactured by WatchGuard Inc., the leading provider of mobile video systems for law enforcement.

Chief Hobbs commented that the department has utilized in-car camera systems since 2003, but technology constantly evolves, and it's vital for the department to maintain the most advanced system available. "An integrated in-car and body-worn camera system makes perfect sense for the department. A large portion of the officer's activities are performed in front of the vehicle where the in-car camera system acts as a critical third-person observer. Integrating a body-worn camera adds a first-person perspective to every recorded incident, enriching the overall evidence".

The WatchGuard integrated system includes a total of four separate camera perspectives. The forward facing in-car camera, a panoramic forward facing camera that captures video from a wider field of view, a cabin mounted camera directed to the back seat of the patrol vehicle, and the body-worn camera. The system allows the HD panoramic in-car and the HD body-worn cameras to intelligently collaborate, simultaneously capturing an incident from multiple vantage points, ensuring the entirety of the scene is available for review and analysis. When any camera in the system initiates a recording, the other cameras automatically sense a change in status and may begin recording based upon a configuration of pre-set criteria.

To Protect and Serve



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“Our officers have been trained in the operations of the body cameras and in-car systems, as well as our policies and procedures governing such use” said Chief Hobbs. “Many of our officers who have never had access to body-worn cameras are displaying a great deal of enthusiasm at the ability to capture additional evidence and promote transparency in policing within our community”.

Chief Hobbs added that “the addition of the body-worn cameras increase transparency and accountability, improve trust between law enforcement agencies and the community they serve, reduce liability, and advance the judicial process.

Mayor Curtis McCoy and the Mansfield City Council approved funding for this project earlier this year and the new system was implemented and operational on June 1st.



Gary Hobbs

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