



Hampton Police Division Media Release

40 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
727-6638



For Immediate Release

August 12, 2015

The Hampton Police Division Implements a Body Worn Camera Program

On August 7th, 2015 the Hampton Police Division began issuing 80 body-worn cameras to officers working in patrol functions throughout the City of Hampton. Citizens will begin seeing officer's wearing this tool which will be affixed to eyewear, hats or a halo style head mount. The launch of the Division's body-worn camera will be utilized in conjunction with our in-car camera program which has been in existence for over a decade.

Over the last year, a project team made up of stakeholders in the program, to include patrol officers, IT Staff, Support Personnel and area prosecutors have spent countless hours developing the procedures, policy and training that will ensure best practices and a seamless transition. Officers extensively field tested various different camera systems, but ultimately chose the Taser Axon Flex body-worn camera system due to its ease of use and field of vision.

Officer's that have been issued a body-worn camera system have received additional training that will ensure proper utilization of the device. Officers are required to record all law enforcement specific contacts. This includes investigative or enforcement functions.

The Division will also begin utilizing "Evidence.com", a cloud-based video evidence storage service, to maintain video footage captured by body-worn cameras. The body camera and storage system maintain "tamper proof" raw recordings that eliminates the possibility of video footage being edited or erased. "Evidence.com" is an efficient way to organize, maintain, and tag clips to police records and criminal cases. Additionally, it provides prosecutors with a simplistic method to prepare for and prosecute cases that have been recorded via the body-worn camera system.

The Division is committed to public transparency and accountability. The utilization of body-worn cameras is intended to enhance the Division's level of public trust within the community, thus advancing our ability to prevent crime and victimization through problem solving policing.

Sgt. Jason Price will receive questions about this release at 757-727-6638.

END