|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Seal2  **CHARLES D. BAKER**  Governor  **KARYN E. POLITO**  Lt. Governor | The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  One Ashburton Place, Room 2133  Boston, Massachusetts 02108  Tel: (617) 727-7775  TTY Tel: (617) 727-6618  Fax: (617) 727-4764  www.mass.gov/eopss | **TERRENCE M. REIDY**  Secretary  **ANGELA F.F. DAVIS**  Asst. Undersecretary |

**Law Enforcement Body Worn Camera Task Force**

**June 21, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

Members Absent:Grace Lee, Carmelo Ayuso, Israul Marrero, Sheriff McDermott,

Chair Davis called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., attendance was taken, and a quorum was established. The meeting minutes of May 17th were approved.

Members of the public were welcomed by Chair Davis, expressing that the Public Input session was open to anyone attending the meeting. It was also mentioned that the on-line form to submit feedback was open and the link was placed in the chat.

Jennifer Root spoke to the placement of body cameras, that they should be placed in the middle of the chest in an unobstructed area. Annmarie Grant believes that there are mostly law enforcement members on the Task Force. She also expressed the importance of cameras on the middle of the chest and that use of body cameras be mandatory. She also stated that “Periodic Review” is insufficient, that there must be specific language, and that department policy is not specific enough. That collective bargaining decisions would be insufficient. She stated that nothing was done to promote the meeting and that the language in the draft should be specific and mandate that police are not allowed to view video before writing report and that their cameras must be on at all times. She said police should not bend to unions and collective bargaining to implement the policy and decisions. She said police should not be allowed to review video before writing report and the fees to request copies should be low. She also said that Axon technology has public records request built into the program.

Mike Mason, Chief of Hadley P.D. stated he has a body camera program in place and allows officers to review video before writing report. He said he would be concerned if video review wasn’t allowed before writing. In that case he suggested “please see video” would be written as the report. He said he has no concerns regarding the rest of the draft. He shared that the placement of their body camera is center and high on the chest. He purchased magnetic clips for the shirt breast pocket which allow for position on center chest.

Mayor Sarno introduced members of the Springfield Police Department leadership to share comment. They shared that they have had a body camera program in place for three years. Now they have 511 cameras deployed, which are important to officers. They view the film then write the report. They have worked with the Department of Justice and their program is considered a model program. They shared that if officers cannot view the video before writing the report it challenges the accuracy of the report. They should be able to review their notes as well as the video prior to writing their report. Mayor Sarno added that it is a balancing act to review video before writing and he supports the process they use allowing for review before writing report. Another member of the Springfield P.D. stated it isn’t fair for cops to not be allowed to review video before writing their report. Best practice is to allow review before writing and it would be contrary to the model policy they have in place now. Mayor Sarno added that the public wants both public safety and accountability, and this is the way to have that.

Anne Marie Grant said officers should not be able to review video before writing their report.

Chief David Jones stated that officers are allowed to review their cruiser camera footage prior to writing a report. They have dash cameras and hope to soon be getting their body cameras. He said that not allowing review before writing is against all best practices.

Daniel Perdy said all body camera footage should allow public access in days immediately following the incident, without high fees. He said we need laws regarding this not policy.

Kevin Ksen said officers should not review video before writing reports because it undermines the process, and video should be immediately available to the public.

Chair Davis reminded the public that there is an on-line form for anyone to send comments to the Task Force until July 1st.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn at 11:01 a.m..