

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL AND CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS June 28, 2016

In the face of national concern over police use of force and the public's expectation that there will be increased oversight over all law enforcement actions, the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff's Department, Office of Inspector General, the Civilian Oversight Commission Workgroup and the Citizen's Commission on Jail Violence have all recognized that video recording technology has changed the face of urban law enforcement. Public cell phone use notwithstanding, it is universally recognized that the use of body-worn cameras would enhance accountability, transparency and public confidence in our policing entities. This Board understands that maintaining the legitimacy of our public safety system requires that we take all reasonable steps to properly supervise and equip our law enforcement with the tools to provide quality policing that the public deserves and that "accurately addresses allegations of misconduct and increase the public trust" (LA Sheriff's Department's report August 27, 2014).

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) currently has approximately one-thousand body cameras in use. In September 2014, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) initiated a volunteer pilot program to test body-worn camera

MOTION

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systems in four areas in the County, and currently permits deputies to use privately purchased body-worn cameras as well. The Office of Inspector General monitored this pilot project, reported on its success and made recommendations in September of 2015. This year, the Department of Justice provided guidance, in the form of a collaborative report, to police agencies seeking to incorporate body-worn cameras. In accordance with the advice of national experts and in consultation with stakeholders and community organizations, LASD has drafted lawful policies on the use of body-worn cameras.

It is critical to the reforms our County is undertaking that body-worn cameras be rolled out in an expeditious manner. Implementation in 2018 is too late. This Board desires to support a plan to place cameras in the field as soon as feasibly possible. There are several options to expedite introduction of body-worn cameras, including phased roll-out procedure starting at stations where a needs assessment has been performed to determine where to begin. The County should also consider the long-term implications for the justice system in that recordings would be utilized in criminal proceedings, administrative investigations, service complaints and civil liability claims. Recognizing that this is a complex and expensive (the initial estimate by Sheriff for phase one is \$14 million) process that raises many policy issues, it is time to start a process for answers and implementation.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Request the Sheriff to present to the Board (within 120 days) a plan to implement body-worn cameras in the shortest timeframe possible and in a manner that makes best use of partnerships with other agencies, including the District Attorney's Office, The Los Angeles Police Department, the

Office of Inspector General, the Public Defender and the Alternate Public Defender; and

2. Direct County Counsel to propose any desirable modifications needed to relevant County ordinances, including any ordinance setting forth lengths of retention for video taken by deputies, and report back in 120 days.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board direct the CEO to prepare a budget proposal in support of the plan prepared by the Sheriff and report back in 120 days.

S:SG/Body-Worn Cameras