

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS August 7, 2018
AND HILDA L. SOLIS**

Developing Next Steps on Body-Worn Cameras

In recent years, high-profile shootings by law enforcement, including the Ferguson and Garner cases, have led to increased public scrutiny of police agencies and concerns regarding inappropriate use of force, particularly against people of color. As a result, many jurisdictions across the nation have adopted body-worn camera programs in an effort to improve accountability and transparency of law enforcement.

Los Angeles County (County) has similarly been exploring the issue of body-worn cameras. In 2012, the Citizens’ Commission on Jail Violence was the first entity to recommend that the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (Department) use “lapel cameras as an investigative tool” to address problematic use of force. On November 2, 2012, the Department delivered a comprehensive study detailing the various camera types as well as implementation options, but expressed concern about investing in such a rapidly changing technology at that time.

On July 12, 2016, the Board of Supervisors (Board) requested that the Sheriff develop a body-worn camera implementation plan within 120 days. In addition, the Board

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directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to prepare a budget proposal in support of the body-worn camera plan prepared by the Department. On October 17, 2017, the CEO submitted her report and determined that to implement body-worn cameras in Los Angeles County (County), an estimated \$84 million and 302 additional staff would be required. Of that amount, \$76 million and 239 additional staff were attributed to the Department. More recently, the Civilian Oversight Commission's (COC) ad hoc committee on use of force has considered the issue of body-worn cameras, in part at the request of the Sheriff. The COC's ad hoc committee presented its final report on body-worn cameras at the July 26, 2018 COC meeting, where it was ultimately approved that day by a vote of the COC. The report, which was informed by research and community feedback (including over 2,000 surveys), recommended that the County implement a body-worn camera program for all Department deputies and their supervisors in accordance with a variety of recommended policies and on an expedited timeline.

As the COC and other reports note, there are many potential benefits of body-worn cameras if used correctly, including recording all contact a deputy has with individuals in the field. These recordings can provide evidence in criminal prosecutions, improve both citizen and deputy conduct, assist with assessing complaints about deputy misconduct, and ultimately enhance law enforcement and community relations. However, the use of body-worn cameras is complex, and raises many policy, legal and practical concerns that must be addressed. This includes issues around privacy rights of deputies and those being recorded, storage and maintenance of recordings, and who has access to the footage. The equipment and personnel required to implement a body-worn camera program represent

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major, long-term financial investments. Additionally, other jurisdictions have struggled with appropriate use of this technology, leading to too many scenarios where a camera was not turned on during an incident involving use of force. Sound and nuanced policies are a prerequisite of an effective body-worn camera policy.

The County is committed to the accountability and transparency of its law enforcement agencies, as demonstrated by the creation of the COC and other Board actions. As one of the few large agencies that has yet to implement this technology, time is of the essence to resolve this issue. Given the complexity of the issues surrounding the use of body-worn cameras, however, it requires a deliberative approach to deployment, as well as consideration of its long-term consequences and impact on the Department and lessons learned from other jurisdictions. Moreover, the projected high cost merits further examination to ensure fiscal prudence. The COC's report provides a strong foundation with thoughtful policy recommendations upon which to build. Consistent with the CEO's October 2017 report recommendations, additional expert analysis is needed to assist the Board to determine the best path forward regarding implementation of body-worn cameras in the County.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in consultation with the Sheriff, County Counsel, Office of Inspector General (OIG), and the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), to engage a consultant (Consultant) with relevant content expertise to:

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- a. Review and assess previous Los Angeles County (County) reports and analyses conducted on body-worn cameras, including those of the COC; and
 - b. Submit a written report to the CEO within 120 days that is informed by community and stakeholder input, lessons learned, and best practices nationally and includes recommendations on proposed policies, procedures, deployment plan, staffing levels, and the operational impacts of body-worn cameras on the Sheriff's Department and the public it serves.
2. Direct the CEO and request the Sheriff, in consultation with the Consultant, the OIG, and the COC, to provide an updated and detailed cost analysis for the implementation and use of body-worn cameras in writing within 30 days upon receipt of the Consultant's report. This cost analysis should be validated by the Consultant and provide the County with options and cost comparisons with other relevant jurisdictions.

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