
**NEVADA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



KEITH ROYAL
SHERIFF / CORONER
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

July 14, 2016

The Honorable Thomas M. Anderson
Presiding Judge of the Grand Jury
201 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

JUL 26 2016

Reviewed
7/20/16
TKA

RE: Response to 2015-2016 Grand Jury Report on Body Worn Cameras

Dear Honorable Judge Anderson:

In response to the Grand Jury Report dated May 24, 2016 regarding Body Worn Cameras

FINDINGS:

1. Body Worn Cameras have been shown to improve officer-to-citizen interactions and safety.

Agree

2. Body Worn Cameras have been shown to reduce citizen complaints.

Agree

3. Body Worn Cameras provide more clarification of contested incidents between officer and civilian.

Agree

4. Body Worn Cameras appear to provide some measure of crowd control and mitigation.

Agree

5. Body Worn Cameras reduce time and legal expense in investigating complaints against officers.

Agree

8. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office has expressed a desire not to deploy Body Worn Cameras at this time.

Agree

9. Interagency communication concerning Body Worn Camera deployment, techniques, policies, and operating procedures has been shown to improve overall results.

Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office should deploy and use Body Worn Cameras.

The recommendation will not be implemented.

While Body Worn Camera's (BWC's) can provide many potential benefits, they come at considerable financial cost. There is the initial purchase as well as the ongoing costs of infrastructure i.e., ongoing program administration, long-term maintenance and replacement costs, data storage technical support staff positions, data storage, backup and security costs, increased records staffing to process data requests as well as initial/continuing staff training. The Sheriff's Office has not received any funding for Body Worn Cameras for Fiscal Year 16/17.

There are no official guidelines in California regarding the use and data storage of BWC's. Of the almost 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States only a fraction currently use BWC's; most of those in urban or high crime areas. As a fledgling technology, the negative impacts of these programs has not been fully explored. While many of the agencies that have BWC programs report success, there has been little attention paid to possible drawbacks or legal ramifications.

Until legislation is in place that addresses data disclosure, privacy and general law enforcement policy questions, embarking on such a program would be a premature expenditure of public funds, staff time and resources. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office does use in-car video and audio recording and are satisfied with this equipment.

Additionally, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office has relatively few complaints regarding the interactions of our officers with the public. Complaints that are received are investigated and overwhelmingly determined to be unfounded.

2. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office should request funds from the Board of Supervisors for Body Worn Cameras and pursue other funds, grants and the like.

The recommendation will not be implemented.

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office budget for Fiscal Year 16-17 has already been approved. We feel it prudent to wait for state guidelines, analyze the experiences of similar law enforcement agencies regarding the benefits and drawbacks associated with the use of Body Worn Cameras before we make this a budget priority.

3. Nevada County law enforcement should include the community, policymakers, courts, oversight boards, unions, frontline officers and other stakeholders in the evolution of their Body Worn Camera Programs.

Grand Jury Response
July 14, 2016

The recommendation will not be implemented.

This will not be implemented on the part of the Nevada County Sheriff's Office as we do not foresee implementing a Body Worn Camera Program at this time.

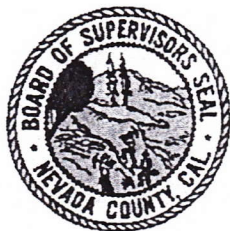
The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the members of the 2015-2016 Grand Jury for their participation and effort in preparing their reports. We are committed to providing the highest level of safety and security to our employees, the public, and inmates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Royal", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Royal
Sheriff-Coroner

COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Reviewed
8/16/16
JMA

Nathan H. Beason, 1st District
Edward C. Scofield, 2nd District
Chair Dan Miller, 3rd District
Vice-Chair Wm. "Hank" Weston, 4th District
Richard Anderson, 5th District

Julie Patterson Hunter,
Clerk of the Board

July 19, 2016

JUL 22 2016

The Honorable Thomas Anderson
Presiding Judge of the Nevada County Grand Jury
Nevada County Courthouse
201 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Board of Supervisors' Responses to the 2015-16 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report,
Body Worn Cameras.

Dear Judge Anderson:

As required by California Penal Code Section 933, the Board of Supervisors hereby submits its responses to the 2015-16 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report, dated May 24th, 2016 entitled *Body Worn Cameras.*

These responses to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on July 19th, 2016. The Responses are based on either personal knowledge, examination of official County records, information received from The Nevada County Sheriff's Office, the County Executive Officer, or the Board of Supervisors and County staff members.

The Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the 2015-16 Grand Jury for their participation and effort in preparing their Reports, and their participation in the Grand Jury process.

Sincerely,

Dan Miller, Chair
Nevada County Board of Supervisors

cc: Thomas Achter, Foreman, Grand Jury
Keith Royal, Nevada County Sheriff
Rick Haffey, County Executive Officer

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESPONSES TO

2015-16 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report

Body Worn Cameras

DATED May 24th, 2016

Responses to findings and recommendations are based on either personal knowledge, examination of official county records, review of the responses by the County Executive Officer, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office or testimony from the Board of Supervisors and county staff members.

A. RESPONSES TO FINDINGS

None required

B. RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS

R.2. The Nevada County Sheriff's Office should request funds from the Board of Supervisors for Body Worn Cameras and pursue other funds, grants and the like.

This recommendation will not be implemented.

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office budget for Fiscal Year 16-17 has already been approved and no request for appropriations for body worn cameras was made. If a request is made it will be considered through the normal budget process.

R.3. Nevada County law enforcement should include the community, policymakers, courts, oversight boards, unions, frontline officers, and other stakeholders in the evolution of their Body Worn Camera programs.

This recommendation will not be implemented.

A Body Worn Camera Program will not be implemented for the Nevada County Sheriff's Office in the foreseeable future.