

Chief D. Ackermann

From: Mary Barchetto
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Chief D. Ackermann
Subject: Re: Law Enforcement Update for Local Elected Officials

"We are awaiting both funding and direction from the state before we can move forward". - all I needed. Thanks!

Please note that copies of correspondence, including e-mail correspondence and attachments, between the public and the Borough of Glen Rock are subject to the requirements of the State of New Jersey's Open Public Records Act ([N.J.S.A.47:1A-1 et seq.](#)) and available upon filing a request, unless subject to a specific OPRA exception. For more information about OPRA <https://www.nj.gov/grc/public/citizens/>

From: Chief D. Ackermann <dackermann@glenrockpolice.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Mary Barchetto <mbarchetto@glenrocknj.net>
Subject: RE: Law Enforcement Update for Local Elected Officials

Mary,

Attached is the public information notice authorized by the attorney general which we put out on the Police Departments Facebook Page on December 28th. Also attached is information about the Use of Force Training and the Valued Partners and Contributors. This is the public information which has been authorized by the AG and you are welcome to put it up on the Borough's Website and Social Media. I am following up with our website administrator about putting them on the PD's website as well.

The Attorney General's Office always welcomes feedback from the residents of New Jersey. Residents may contact him through the AG's Office of Citizens Services <https://www.njoag.gov/contact/citizen-services/>.

As for the body camera program, I have more questions than answers. The Interagency Working Group to provide recommendations on technology solutions to facilitate the statewide implementation of BWC is not expected to have information available until March 31, 2021 at the earliest. Until that time I am hesitant to make any public comments beyond: "We are awaiting both funding and direction from the state before we can move forward". While a law was passed concerning body cameras, the Attorney General must interpret the law, set up directives for training and use as well as address privacy concerns which are already being raised. Remember, once we have body cameras our officers are going to be recording inside our resident's private homes when we respond to calls and unless the nature of the call is exempt from disclosure under OPRA that recording may be a public record available to anyone. Much like implementing the legalization of marijuana, nothing gets done simply and quickly in Trenton.

If the state does not come through with sufficient funding I suspect a legal battle as many local municipalities are just not going to be able to fund body camera programs. But we are just going to have to wait and see.

Best wishes,

Dean

Dean Ackermann
Chief of Police
Glen Rock Police Department

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"Up-to-the-minute updates from city agencies by e-mail and cell phone: www.nixle.com"

From: Mary Barchetto <mbarchetto@glenrocknj.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Chief D. Ackermann <dackermann@glenrockpolice.com>
Subject: Re: Law Enforcement Update for Local Elected Officials

Chief,

How do you best recommend we share any information about this with residents? I'm sure some will have questions, while others are not aware this is happening.

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From: Chief D. Ackermann <dackermann@glenrockpolice.com>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@glenrocknj.net>
Cc: GRPD - All Staff <allstaff@glenrockpolice.com>
Subject: Law Enforcement Update for Local Elected Officials

Mayor and Council,

Best wishes to all as we begin what will hopefully be a better new year!

Like most citizens of our state, local elected officials have heard a great deal about Attorney General Gurbir Grewal's Excellence in Policing Initiative, changes to the state's Use of Force Policy and recent legislation mandating implementation of Body Worn Camera programs at some point in the future. New Jersey is well ahead of other states, developing these initiatives in cooperation with law enforcement and community partners, which included members of the public being invited to submit feedback. This included 21 listening sessions hosted by County Prosecutors across the state.

To promote a better understanding of the state mandated changes being implemented as well as the potential budgetary impact, I have prepared a brief overview of these changes. This information is based upon the numerous law enforcement executives' virtual conferences I have taken part in, as well as the materials and several hundred pages of documents I have been studying. It also provides information specific to Glen Rock.

Moving forward, I will keep the Mayor and Public Safety Committee apprised as these initiatives progress. Due to COVID-19, in person meetings and training sessions will not take place during the first half of the year, therefore, there is still more to be learned.

Any public presentations concerning these Initiatives remain under the auspices of the Attorney General at this juncture, though each law enforcement executive has been provided with basic talking points. It is from these talking points, as well as other publicly release documents, which I have developed the two attached informational advisories.

Best wishes to all,

Dean Ackermann
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