

Chief D. Ackermann

From: Chief D. Ackermann
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:00 PM
To: tdellane@njsacop.org
Cc: njsacop@njsacop.org
Subject: FW: NJSACOP E-Lert: NJ Body Camera Policy – Update and Request to Membership

Chief Dellane,

Thank you very much for your efforts in representing the NJSACOP on the Body Camera Working Group.

I am sure that most of my comments are going to be consistent with what other Chiefs are sending and it is going to be like “Groundhog Day” reading them!

What I view as the barriers to the adoption of body worn cameras is both the cost and the unrealistic timeframe for implementation:

- Like most municipal governments impacted by COVID-19, Glen Rock will be implementing austerity measures for the 2021 budget for which budget meetings just began this week. I do not envision any local funding being made available in the 2021 budget for the purchase or operation of body cameras. Currently the Glen Rock Police Department does not have a body camera program, therefore there is no established funding line item in my operating budget. In order to implement the program, I expect to be limited to that funding which is provided by the state of New Jersey. Having no idea what that amount will be or when it will be received, I am in no position to begin the purchasing process.
- Further, even if my Mayor and Council agrees to some partial funding, the Municipal Budget is far from being approved. Like most towns the final Municipal Budget will not be introduced until mid-March and any capital expenditures agreed to would then be part of a Capital Funding Ordinance to be introduced in May. Funds would then not be available until late June at the earliest. Clearly, there is no possible way I could purchase a body camera system, set it up and train my officers for a June 1st implementation.
- Given the requirements of the "State Mandate, State Pay" amendment to the New Jersey Constitution, approved by voters in November 1995, I do not envision willingness on the part of my governing body to provide funding for the purchase and operation of body cameras. I have already been told that funding will be very tight for this year's budget. This cannot be unique to Glen Rock!
- I am compelled to operate with a part-time Records Bureau, which is struggling to keep up with the increase in firearms applications alone. The production of video footage for OPRA requests, and discovery – *which will include the labor intensive process of image redaction* - will be time consuming and will no doubt require specialized training. It is doubtful that the GRPD will be able to continue with part-time personnel in our Records Bureau. This is yet another unfunded mandate not considered in this legislation and is beyond the scope of my current budgetary limitations.

Training barriers:

- There has been no mention of training resources which will be made available. As we have never used body cameras in the past, it would be unrealistic to think that we can issue our officers body cameras and an instruction sheet and expect them to use them properly. At minimum a train the trainer program would need to be implemented. Again, it is unrealistic that any type of meaningful training could be provided before June 1st.

Recommendations for policies, by executive action or legislation.

- There will be tremendous OPRA and personal privacy implications which I do not feel have been properly addressed. I expect that once police body cameras become more common there will be a backlash from personal privacy advocates, which currently appears to be of little concern.
- In a bedroom community like Glen Rock where people have close ties to each other the intended effect may turn into a big negative. How are these expansions going to limit citizens' personal freedoms? While many have asserted that body worn cameras will bring greater transparency of police actions, the technology also has the potential to cut into citizens' privacy. As police body camera records are a public record, what privacy guarantees will be provided to the private citizens we record? How will we respond when videos of our citizens in a time of crisis are posted on social media for amusement or humiliation? Even with blurred images, in a small town people will often be able to figure out who the subject of the video is.

Best wishes and again thank you,

Dean

Dean Ackermann

Chief of Police

Glen Rock Police Department

1 Harding Plaza

Glen Rock, NJ 07452

www.glenrockpolice.com

Dispatch: (201) 652-3800

Voicemail: (201) 670-3945

Fax: (201) 251-3887



CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION: This communication and any attachment to this communication is confidential, is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which this communication is addressed and may be privileged and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. **NOTICE:** You are advised that e-mail correspondence and attachments between the public and the Glen Rock Police Department may be obtainable by any person who files a request under the NJ Open Public Records Act (OPRA) unless it is subject to a specific OPRA exception. You should have no expectation that the content of e-mails sent to or from Borough e-mail addresses, or between the public and Borough officials and employees, will remain private.

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

From: NJ Chiefs of Police <mcsklar@njsacop.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 11:31 AM

To: Chief D. Ackermann <dackermann@glenrockpolice.com>

Subject: NJSACOP E-Lert: NJ Body Camera Policy – Update and Request to Membership



New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police

Leading New Jersey Law Enforcement Since 1912

NJSACOP E-LERT

02.04.2021

NJ Body Camera Policy – Update and Request to Membership

***Chiefs: Please see the below message sent on behalf of
NJSACOP 2nd Vice President Chief Tom Dellane (Stafford
Twp. PD). Please send all responses directly to
tdellane@njsacop.org with a copy to the NJSACOP State
Office at njsacop@njsacop.org.***

I just received notification of the first meeting of the state of New Jersey's "Body Camera Working Group" next week. I serve as the Chiefs Association representative on that Working Group.

Two of the four stated objectives of the group are to:

1. are to identify barriers to the adoption of body worn camera systems

and

2. Recommending any necessary changes to existing policies, whether by executive action or legislation, related to the deployment of body worn camera systems or the storage and handling of body worn camera footage.

In preparation for the meeting, I think it would be beneficial for other committee members to learn about issues and concerns that our membership has with regard to the two objectives stated above.

As the Association's President mentioned during the Chiefs Meeting earlier this morning, I am asking that Chiefs email me directly (with a copy to the Association, as noted above) with any concerns and comments that you may have pertaining to the above listed two objectives.

Thanks for your attention and cooperation.

Tom

Chief Thomas J. Dellane
Stafford Twp. Police Department
NJSACOP 2nd Vice President

NJSACOP | njsacop.org



NJ Chiefs of Police | 751 Route 73 North, Suite 12, Marlton, NJ 08053

[Unsubscribe dackermann@glenrockpolice.com](mailto:dackermann@glenrockpolice.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by mcsklar@njsacop.org powered by

