

## **Abstract**

The Spring Valley Police Department (SVPD) respectfully requests \$11,905 from the US Department of Justice for its Body-Worn Camera Pilot Implementation Program. Spring Valley, New York has one of the highest crime rates in New York State and struggles with a very poor economy. The village also has a very diverse population, with almost fifty percent of residents speaking a language other than English. These factors all contribute to a barrier of distrust between the community and the police.

SVPD recognizes the value that body worn cameras can have in increasing trust between the community and law enforcement. Cameras has been shown to reduce use of force incidents, complaints against officers and lawsuits filed against police departments. In 2014, Spring Valley had 94 use of force incidents, 26 complaints against officers and 9 lawsuits filed against the police department. Through this program, Spring Valley aims to cut all of these numbers in half within the first 2 years of implementation.

To implement this program, Spring Valley will mobilize the community to ensure that body-worn camera policies address the interests of all stakeholders and community members. SVPD has already secured The Spring Valley Police Benevolent Association, The Rockland County District Attorney's Office, The Spring Valley Justice Court and the Spring Valley chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as partners for this project and will continue to seek out the support and counsel of additional community organizations in developing these policies. During the planning period of this program, all partner organizations will meet with members of the SVPD to ensure that their interests and concerns are addressed in body-worn camera policies.

Through this program, Spring Valley will purchase 44 body cameras which will be deployed to its 41 patrol officers (3 will be reserves). One 8-port docking station will be purchased which will charge and offload files from the body cameras. The application also includes travel expenses for two SVPD officers to attend a BWC PIP meeting. Cameras will be deployed in a phased plan in which 5 cameras will be deployed once every 2 weeks. All officers will receive training regarding body-worn camera policies and proper use of the cameras. SVPD will periodically evaluate this program and publicly release its findings. Through this program, Spring Valley aims to make its police department more transparent so that it can better serve the needs of the community.