



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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Mayor

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To Whom It May Concern:

Law enforcement has been doing the same basic job for years. However, technological advances in recent years have greatly shaped today's law enforcement. These advances have presented law enforcement with challenges as well as ways for being for efficient and effective in their duties as they protect and serve. One of the latest technological innovations has been Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs).

Body-Worn Cameras certainly have the capacity to help ensure the actions of police officers are appropriate, protect police officers and their governing body from false accusations and liability, capture evidence for criminal and civil litigation, provide transparency with the public, and provide a number of other advantages. Still, issues related to privacy and maintaining strong relationships with citizens, among other things, must be carefully analyzed and decided upon.

As the Mayor for the City of West Allis, I believe that Body-Worn Cameras will help to show that our police officers routinely act appropriately even in difficult situations; Body-Worn Cameras will help to highlight training needs for police officers so that they can better serve the community; Body-Worn Cameras will often provide irrefutable evidence of what genuinely happened. All of this will reduce liability for the City of West Allis as well as increase public perception and trust of our police officers who are dedicated to the community they serve.

In the end, I strongly support the West Allis Police Department acquiring and implementing the use of Body-Worn Cameras within the framework of a strong, legally sound policy. While Body-Worn Cameras will not be the be-all, end-all, they do have capacity to have a valuable, positive impact on our police department and city as a whole.

Sincerely,

Dan Devine
Mayor
City of West Allis