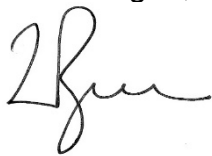




HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Hamilton Police Services Board
BOARD MEETING DATE:	March 26, 2021
SUBJECT:	Body Worn Camera Semi-Annual Update
REPORT NUMBER:	21-021
SUBMITTED BY:	Frank Bergen, Acting Chief of Police
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- a) Recommend continued research regarding the possible implementation of Body Worn Cameras with continuing semi-annual updates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hamilton Police Service has endeavored to use academic research and the experiences of other policing agencies to assist with its determination as to the efficacy of body worn cameras.

The impact that the technology has on the relationship with the public, issues of privacy and financial ramifications for adoption is a primary consideration. As our reports have consistently conveyed, the academic and policing community and the community in general is unable to come to a clear consensus on whether or not body worn cameras offer the solution for police and public relations that is expected.

During the presentation of the 2020 BWC report to the Service Board, a Board Member suggested that while body worn cameras were an inevitability, there were financial pressures preventing the immediate adoption of the technology. The Board requested further information as to the experiences of the numerous agencies that have moved forward with pilots or deployment for March of 2021.

To that end, the Service has spent the last six months reviewing the experiences and decisions of Canadian agencies, as well as to move forward with infrastructure impact reviews and improvements. This has allowed us to begin to identify weaknesses with our

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Mission: To serve and protect in partnership with our communities.

Our Values: Compassionate, Dedicated, Inclusive, Integrity, Innovative, Professional, Teamwork

systems and the future proof of our Service's infrastructure, for when the time comes to make a final decision regarding moving forward with camera adoption.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: To be determined

Staffing: To be determined based on approach; pilot to implementation

Legal Implications: Privacy, Retention and Sharing to be determined

INFORMATION

Since 2014 the Hamilton Police Services Board has been presented with reports from the Internal Body Worn Camera Committee concerning the state of body worn cameras in North America. The reports convey the status of research on the feasibility of deploying cameras in the policing community, the position of various policing agencies in North America and a potential pilot project for the Hamilton Police Service.

In answer to the calls from the public, policing in Ontario has begun the shift to deploying BWCs to their frontline officers. The number of agencies adopting BWC technology continues to increase with many agencies in province and the GTA choosing to deploy BWCs and/or In Car Video Systems. To implement these systems effectively the need to manage the captured digital evidence effectively is a requirement. To do so the Province of Ontario is working towards implementing a provincial Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) to assist agencies in managing their data. Axon Corporation has been chosen as the supplier for the DEMS system.

In 2021, the Service has committed to move forward with the use of Axon's DEMS platform for the managing of digital evidence. A pilot using the DEMS Technology is set to begin in April 2021. Understanding the DEMS platform for things like video upload will continue to assist the Service in understanding how the use of cameras by Hamilton Police Service officers would affect the Service. The DEMS and its relationship to BWCs is a key component to understand in any consideration for future deployment of any camera solution for the Service.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" – Body Worn Camera Semi-Annual Update

FB/M.Worster