

Executive Summary

Date: September 7, 2016
To: Sarah Seelye, Moderator RTM
From: Kate Clarke Buch, Town Administrator
RE: Request for body cameras

At the August 8, 2016 meeting of the Board of Selectmen the board voted to request a special appropriation for the purchase of body cameras for the Police Department. It is expected that the Board of Finance will vote to recommend the request to the Representative Town Meeting at the September 13th meeting of the Board of Finance.

The Police Department had originally made the request for an appropriation during the FY 17 budget process. At that time, the Board of Selectmen declined to fund the request. The primary reasons were concern about the advance of technology, the cost and a desire to see them in use in other departments.

The Chief presented his request again, with updated information regarding technology and showing more widespread use of the technology. He was also able to present specific instances where the technology could have been a useful tool for our department. The cost of the program has not reduced significantly. The cost is mainly in the annual storage fees for the data. While there is a possibility for state funding, this request does not assume any will be received.

I am attaching a presentation that the Chief prepared regarding this request as well as the Board of Selectmen's resolution.

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE
PURCHASE OF BODY CAMERAS FOR THE DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has requested funding for body cameras and a data retention system for the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut encourages the use of body cameras; and

WHEREAS, use of body cameras is considered to be a law enforcement best practice; and

WHEREAS, after due consideration, the Board of Selectmen believes that this program will benefit the department and the community; and

WHEREAS, funding will be required in the current fiscal year for operating costs of \$49,344 and capital expenses of \$37,798;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Darien Board of Selectmen hereby recommends a special appropriation totaling \$87,142 to the Board of Finance and Representative Town Meeting for this purpose.

Darien Police Department

Body Camera Proposal



JULY 28, 2016

Benefits of Body Worn Cameras

- Documentation of critical incidents, police-public contacts, crime and accident scenes, and arrests
- Preserving visual and audio information for use in current and future investigations
- Capturing crimes in-progress whether against a police officer or the community
- Document victim, witness or suspect statements
- Document the use of police procedures
- Strengthens police accountability by documenting incidents and encounters between officers and the public

Benefits of Body Worn Cameras

- Use in resolving officer-involved incidents and complaints by providing an objective record of events
- Improving agency transparency by creating records of police activities and encounters
- Identifies and strengthens officer performance by using footage for officer training and monitoring performance
- Improves evidence documentation for investigation, prosecution and administrative reviews of employee performance and/or civil actions

Limitations of Body Cameras

- Body cameras can provide a unique perspective on police encounters
- But a camera mounted on a uniform has limitations that need to be understood
- A body camera can provide more information about what happened in an encounter
- But it can't necessarily provide all the information needed to make a fair judgment

Limitations of Body Cameras

Limitations that should be considered when purchasing and using body cameras:

- A camera does not follow an officer's eyes or sees as the officer saw
- Some important danger and tactical cues important in the use of force decision making process are difficult for a camera to capture

Limitations of Body Cameras

- Camera speed differs from the speed of life that can cloud evidence of an officer firing after a threat has ended
- A camera may see better than an officer in low light conditions
- An officer's body may block the camera's view

Limitations of Body Cameras

- A body camera only records in 2 Dimension and does not record depth of field that is perceived by the human eye, so accurately judging distances on the footage can be difficult
- Body cameras encourage second guessing- Supreme Court in the use of force case *Graham vs. Connor* found that an officer's decisions in tense and uncertain situations are not to be judged with the 20/20 vision of hindsight
- A camera should not replace a thorough investigation and body cameras should not be given exclusive weight

Cameras for Each Officer

- Each camera would be standard issued equipment so that when a recording is uploaded there is no question on who collected the video, uploaded the video or accessed the video
- Shared cameras would not document the above information causing evidence chain of custody issues
- Shared cameras would not ensure an officer was receiving a fully charged and downloaded camera
- Shared cameras could mistakenly be brought home
- Shared cameras may leave oncoming officers without a camera due to late calls, the use of the cameras by another division or double shifts

Benchmarking

- Most area police agencies have or are researching the purchasing of a body camera program
- Norwalk, Westport and Wilton are among the area agencies currently deploying body cameras
- Those agencies have similar written policies on the use of body cameras

Benchmarking

- The State of Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council recently adopted a body camera policy attached to Public Act 15-4
- This policy includes mandates on when the camera must be used, circumstances when it can be deactivated, the personnel allowed access to the videos and minimum retention periods

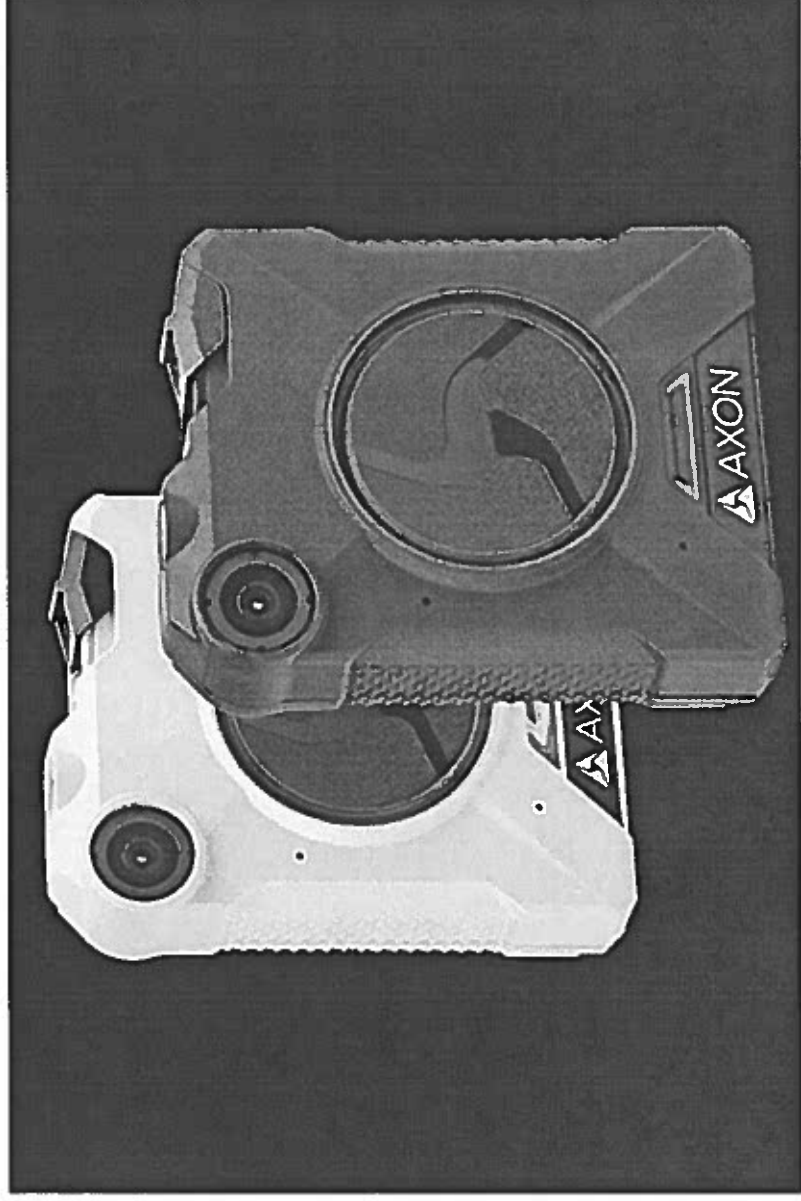
Manufacturers

- Presentations were received from Taser, VieVue, WatchGuard and Data 911 body camera manufacturers
- Presentations were given to a cross section of the members of the Darien Police Department including the administration, training and police association
- Based on these presentations Taser and Data 911 were selected for consideration for purchase

Recommendation

- The recommendation was the Taser Body Camera system
- Taser's program allows for simple and accurate means of storing recordings
- Taser uses a cloud-based digital evidence management platform that securely stores, manages and shares their evidence
- Taser is a better quality camera and carrying design
- Any technical issues are handled by Taser
- More than 3,500 police agencies have purchased Axon cameras in the US as of September 30, 2015

Taser Axon Body 2



Taser Axon Body 2

Taser features:

- **Retina HD Video:** Low-light video now records in HD where the camera adjusts to changes in lighting, functioning like the human eye- 1080P/720P/480P recording options
- **Dual Audio Channels:** Make voices much more distinct with audio tuning and noise reduction
- **Full-Shift Battery:** Lasts for over 12 hours
- **Pre-Event Buffer:** Capture up to 2 minutes before an event
- **Wireless Activation:** Axon Signal starts the camera with light bar
- **In-Field Tagging:** Mark any important points in your video
- **Unmatched Durability:** Built to withstand extreme weather and brutal conditions
- **Advanced Security:** Evidence is encrypted at rest on the camera to protect data at all times
- **Axon Rapid Lock Mounts:** Versatile mounts keep the camera steady during tough situations

Costs

The detailed breakdown of the costs for the first year of the Taser body camera program:

• 48- Axon Body Cameras- Unit Price \$399.00-	Total- \$19,152
• 8- Wall Mount Bracket (Dock)- Unit Price \$35.00-	Total- \$280
• 8- Axon 6 Bay Dock- Unit Price \$1495.00-	Total- \$11,960
• 48- CAD Integration License (Yearly)- Unit Price \$240-	Total- \$11,520
• 48- Officer Safety Plan Year 1- Unit Price \$1188- (Discount)Total- \$37,824	
Unlimited Storage	
Extended Warranty	
New Cameras @ 2.5 & 5 Years	
• 14-Axon Signal- Unit Price \$279-	Total- \$3,906
Car Interface	
• 1- Axon Starter- Unit Price \$2500-	Total- \$2500
Train The Trainer	

Year 1 Hardware & Services- \$87,142.00

Costs

Five year projected costs:

- Year 2 2017- \$68,544
 - Year 3 2018- \$68,544
 - Year 4 2019- \$68,544
 - Year 5 2020- \$68,544
 - Estimated Shipping- \$423.58
- Five Year Total \$361,741.58**

Costs

The Officer Safety Program includes:

- Evidence.com License
- Upgrades to Axon cameras & dock stations at years 2.5 and 5
- Extended warranties on cameras and docking stations for duration
- Unlimited data storage
- One Taser Conducted Electrical Weapon

Uses of Taser Body Camera

- <http://www.policemag.com/videos/channel/technology/2014/10/new-mexico-officer-cleared-of-sexual-assault-by-body-camera.aspx>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vbYufGNupc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M-UN7gsPIE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHQzct vNW>