



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
July 9, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Carianna Arredondo, Assistant to the City Manager, Reimagining Public Safety

Subject: Grant Application: Bureau of Justice Assistance Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are sufficient funds in the General Fund (011-71-705-820-0000-000-421-666110) allocation to accommodate the 50% match of this grant. This allocation can be used to leverage grant opportunities such as the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant program that require local matching funds. If awarded, the BJA grant program will reimburse the City up to 50% of the total project cost.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) a critical entity within the Department of Justice, plays a pivotal role in strengthening the nation's criminal justice system. The BJA assists state, local, and tribal jurisdictions in reducing and preventing crime, decreasing recidivism, and promoting a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA's efforts encompass a *broad spectrum* of resources, including training and technical assistance, to support law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, reentry, justice information sharing, and community-based partners. These initiatives are aimed at addressing both chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges across the nation.

Fiscal Year 2024 funds from the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program are specifically allocated to support the purchase and lease of body-worn cameras (BWCs) by publicly funded law enforcement and corrections agencies. These funds are intended to aid comprehensive BWC programs. Additionally, the program seeks to support demonstration projects that advance digital evidence management, utilizing BWC digital footage to foster evidence-based and procedurally just practices in agencies with established BWC programs.

Body-worn cameras have become the industry standard in policing, and there is broad support for their use in the City of Berkeley. These cameras provide crucial evidence in police investigations and enhance accountability for all parties involved in community-police interactions. Studies have consistently shown that the use of body-worn cameras leads to a significant reduction in citizen complaints and use-of-force incidents.

The Berkeley Police Department is seeking to pursue this funding to continue its successful BWC program and maintenance. By doing so, the department aims to sustain and expand its efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust in its operations.

### BACKGROUND

On June 27, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 68,060—NS, in accordance with the requirements of City Charter Article XI, Section 67.2. This resolution approved the National Intergovernmental Purchasing Alliance (National IPA) bid procedures and authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract, including any necessary amendments, to equip the Berkeley Police Department with body-worn camera (BWC) equipment, software, and services from Axon Enterprises. The contract, capped at \$1,250,000 over five years, was designed to enhance the department's transparency and accountability.

Following the adoption of this resolution, the City of Berkeley entered into Contract No. 10662 with Axon Enterprises to purchase and lease BWCs. This contract marked a significant step in the City's efforts to modernize its policing tools and promote community trust. In 2023, the City entered into a subsequent contract with Axon Enterprises under Contract No. 32400001, further reinforcing its commitment to maintaining an effective BWC program.

In alignment with the City's ongoing commitment to the Reimagining Public Safety initiative, the City Council approved strategic funding allocations to sustain and enhance public safety efforts. For fiscal years 2023 and 2024, a total of \$100,000 was allocated under the Grant Assistance effort. This funding is a critical component of the City's long-term strategy for safety and community welfare. The Assistant to the City Manager, serving as the Reimagining Public Safety Project Coordinator, oversees the management of these funds within the City Manager's Office.

In 2024, the City of Berkeley formed a partnership with California Consulting, LLC, under Contract No. 32400015. This partnership aims to bolster the City's grant application processes, thereby maximizing the potential for securing additional funding to support and expand public safety programs. The collaboration is part of a broader effort to ensure that the City can continue to invest in initiatives that promote public safety and community well-being.

As the Reimagining Public Safety initiative transitions into Phase 3, aligning with the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget cycle, securing further grants remains a critical priority. Continued funding will support the expansion of current initiatives and the introduction of new programs in the next phase of the initiative. This ongoing financial support is essential to sustaining and enhancing comprehensive public safety efforts that ensure a secure and thriving community for all residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Approving the resolution enables the City to apply for the BJC Body-Worn Camera grant is essential to secure additional funding needed to expand and sustain Berkeley's body-worn camera program, thereby enhancing transparency, accountability, and overall public safety. This funding will support crucial upgrades and maintenance, ensuring continued community trust and effective law enforcement practices.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police, 510-981-5700

Jen Tate, Deputy Chief, 510-981-5983

Lt. Matthew McGee, Police Community Services Bureau, 510-981-5808

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR UP TO \$300,000 TO BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) FOR BODY-WORN CAMERA POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Assistance has established the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program, which provides 50% matching funding to enhance transparency, accountability, and evidence-based practices for law enforcement agencies across the nation

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley, in alignment with the Reimagining Public Safety initiative, recognizes the urgent need to support its body-worn camera program, ensuring effective law enforcement and strengthening community trust; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Police Department has established a partnership with Axon Enterprises, focusing on comprehensive body-worn camera solutions that enhance the department's capacity to document and manage interactions with the public effectively; and

WHEREAS, securing the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program grant is beneficial for continuing the successful deployment and maintenance of body-worn cameras, which have proven helpful in reducing citizen complaints and use-of-force incidents, while promoting transparency and procedural justice; and

WHEREAS, the application for this grant, due July 24, 2024, in the amount of up to \$300,000, requires timely submission and a 50% match to meet strict funding deadlines.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council approves the City Manager (or her designee) to submit a Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program FY 2024 grant application in the amount of up to \$300,000, due July 24, 2024; to accept the grant and provide a 50% match; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and authorize these funds be utilized to support the current Axon BWC contract, subject to securing the grant.