

CALVIN BALL
County Executive



LISA D. MYERS
Chief of Police

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

DATE: November 2, 2021
FROM: Chief Lisa D. Myers *APM*
TO: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: CB90-2021 Legislation to Approve Five Year Axon BWC Purchasing

For over five years, the Police Department, County Administration and the Council have been working to bring Body Worn Cameras (BWC) to Howard County. Extensive research, field testing, legislation and procurement efforts have us on the verge of launching a long-awaited program.

The final logistical procurement step was identified when police staff attempted to place the order for BWC equipment. The quote from Axon is based upon a five year, set contract. Although all funding has now been secured for year one, County Council must approve any multi-year agreements.

Making a five-year commitment for this vital program, which is supported by Council, County Administration, the Police Department, our citizens and now mandated by State Law, reduces the program cost by over \$1.1 million dollars. This “bundle savings” is identified in the Axon quote.

The Police Department urgently needs Council approval of this legislation so that we can avoid notable delays in launching the BWC program. The State mandate now has other agencies competing for Axon training dates, product/component delivery dates, and support services from Axon. Even a one-month delay in placing our order, could result in a 3 – 4 month delay in launching this long sought-after program. Delays will likely impact community confidence in public safety, our promise towards transparency, as well as officer morale.

Please continue to show your commitment to Body Worn Cameras in Howard County by supporting this needed legislation. Thank you.

LDM:tgb
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