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## **BODY WORN CAMERAS**

### **The process to equip officers with this technology is now fully operational**

*Harrisonburg, Virginia-* The Harrisonburg Police Department is taking advantage of an opportunity in technology advancements by adding another tool for its officers working out on the streets. Body Worn Cameras are now being issued to uniformed officers and utilized throughout their daily activities.

Each camera downloads to a secure cloud-based evidence storage system, Evidence.Com. Starting in April of this year, officers underwent training on its use, procedures, and policy for deployment.

The cost for one camera is approximately \$450. There is an ongoing expense associated with the video data through the cloud-based storage system. The first year fee is approximately \$4,500 which is based on 30 cameras and the number of officers using the system. Funding for the cameras was accomplished through the Department's Asset Forfeiture Funds (Moneys seized through criminal investigations). It is anticipated another 23 cameras will be purchased within the next 12 months through various funding sources.

Harrisonburg Police Chief Stephen Monticelli was pleased to hear comments from his staff in favor of this new technology and its easy transition into the Department. He stated, "With some strategies, change is difficult and not easily embraced. Our officers were ready and willing to fully implement this new technology."

In today's environment with ever-increasing media coverage on police relations with the public, this cost is considered a necessity by many police executives across the country. On the company's website, [www.taser.com](http://www.taser.com), statistical information shows agencies with significant decreases in complaints against officers and reduced use of force incidents.

Lieutenant Rod Pollard, Commander of the Uniformed Patrol Division stated, "They are a good connection and level of accountability between the public and our officers." He further commented, "Body Worn Cameras have become an instrumental piece of equipment for the modern day police officer."

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