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San Diego County Sheriff's Department - Media Relations

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Body-Worn Camera Pilot Program

Sheriff Bill Gore today announces the launch of an estimated 90-day trial period for body-worn cameras (BWCs). Three companies (WatchGuard Video, TASER International and Viewu) will be involved; each with a 30-day in-field trial phase. The pilot program will be launched on Friday, February 5th and the first testing cycle will include a system from the company, WatchGuard Video. 75 BWCs will be deployed in six locations: Rancho San Diego Station (16), Lakeside Substation (8), Vista Station (22), North Coastal Station (15), Rural Command (2), and deputies assigned to the Hall of Justice (12), who work primarily in field operations.

In August 2014, the Sheriff's Department established a BWC Committee to explore the suitability and feasibility of BWCs. Research included companies and equipment, best practices for storage of the metadata and a comprehensive protocol and policy for the application of BWCs. The committee consisted of representatives from our Data Services Division, Training Unit, Contracts Division, Patrol and Detentions.

During the past 18 months, the committee also met with other law enforcement agencies to discuss their particular experiences with BWCs. These agencies include the San Diego, Escondido, Chula Vista and Carlsbad Police Departments, as well as the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Mesa, Arizona Police Department. The Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) has also been consulted for their assistance in helping us better assess this technology and how it will best serve the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and community.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released on March 20, 2015 to commence the selection of a provider for the BWCs.

Sheriff Gore has commented, "This is one of the most significant programs we have initiated since I was elected Sheriff, and I want to do it the right way – for our personnel, and for our communities."

All deputies who participate in this trial phase will receive training conducted by the BWC providers.

At the conclusion of the entire testing phase, trial participants will provide feedback for review and analysis. Information from this trial will be used in the final selection of the RFP process.

The interim Policy and Protocol to accompany this BWC deployment can be located at: <http://www.sdsheriff.net/documents/bwc20150916.pdf>.

