



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving a resolution authorizing and executing a policy regarding use of body worn cameras for the Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department as required by state law

DATE: January 18, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

PRESENTED BY: Tim Moring, Chief of Police

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The City Council approved a purchase order for body worn cameras at the regular meeting of December 7, 2023. As set forth in the Texas Occupations Code related to body worn cameras, a law enforcement agency that operates a body worn camera program shall adopt a policy for the use of body worn cameras.

The policy requires that the agency establish guidelines and provisions regarding the use of body worn cameras. A summary of the guidelines established by law are as follows:

- Activation and deactivation of the body worn camera.
- Video retention and secure storage.
- Provisions on collection and storage of video evidence.
- Guidelines for public access through open records requests.
- Provisions entitling officer access before official statements are required.
- Procedures for supervisory/internal review.
- Handling/Documentation of equipment malfunctions.

In addition to the policy requirements, officers and employees who either utilize a body worn camera or have access to the video files are required to complete mandated body worn camera training approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

Police Department staff anticipate a full deployment and use of the approved body worn cameras by late March 2024. All required training will be completed before deployment and any policy updated or revisions will be brought before council if needed.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

The establishment of this policy maintains the police departments compliance with both Texas statutes and TPCS Accreditation.

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

Policy has been reviewed and approved by City Attorney's office.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve a resolution authorizing and executing a policy regarding use of body worn cameras for the Fair Oaks Ranch Police Department.