

From: Asheville Blade <ashevilleblade@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/14/2016 12:31:46 PM
To: Christina Hallingse <CHallingse@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Re: More information about body camera implementation/backlog and use of dash cams

Christina,

Thanks so much. This is very helpful and I appreciate the prompt and detailed answers on these questions.

Last clarification: in the third reply you mentioned Radford "was the only unit on-scene at the time of the shooting" I assumed "unit" in this case refers to him, by himself, and his vehicle, rather than, say, the public housing unit or another unit of several APD officers. That was what I figured but it's always best to clarify as much as possible.

Best,

David

On Wed, Jul 13, 2016 at 4:41 PM, Christina Hallingse <CHallingse@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

David,

Good afternoon. Please find the responses below in red.

Thank you,

Christina Hallingse

Public Information Officer

Asheville Police Department

Office: [\(828\) 259-5881](tel:(828)259-5881)

Cell: [\(828\) 230-4471](tel:(828)230-4471)

From: Asheville Blade [<mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 09:39 AM

To: Christina Hallingse

Subject: Re: More information about body camera implementation/backlog and use of dash cams

Thanks for the prompt reply and helpful information. I have a few questions:

1) If the body camera equipment was received the week of July 27, why was the decision made to implement them July 4-10 (for the public housing unit) instead of earlier? How many officers in the public housing unit (or any other units, but that's the one y'all mentioned directly) are now equipped with the cameras? **There was only a one week time frame between receiving the cameras and deploying them for trial use. Once we received the cameras we had to inventory all the equipment (docking stations, cameras, etc.) and get the equipment setup at the individual resource stations. Our Law Enforcement Technology Specialist that oversees the Body Worn Camera program is a civilian position and was therefore was not in the office from Saturday, July 2nd through Monday, July 4th (the city had a holiday on the 4th). Upon his return the cameras were deployed and put into operation.**

2) You mentioned that the APD has 84 vehicles equipped with camera. Out of how many total vehicles? **The Asheville Police Department has 234 vehicles total. These include marked, unmarked and specialty unit vehicles.**

3) Was any dash camera footage of the July 2 incident, from the chase to the death of Williams, recorded? **Sgt. Tyler Radford was the only unit on-scene at the time of the shooting. His vehicle was not equipped with COBAN technology.**

Thanks for your time and help on this.

Sincerely,

David

On Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 2:52 PM, Christina Hallingse <CHallingse@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

David,

Good afternoon. The Asheville Police Department placed the order for the body cameras back in March of this year. However, Taser International (the company that produces the body cameras)

was experiencing a backlog due the high demand from law enforcement agencies across the country to implement BWCs and they were awaiting for approval from the FCC for their "axon signal" technology (the "axon signal" is a Bluetooth installed in the police vehicle that turns on the BWC when emergency equipment is activated). As a result of the backlog and technology approval, the Asheville Police Department did not receive the equipment until the week of June 27th. Promptly, upon receipt our Law Enforcement Technology Specialist began preparing the equipment for deployment. We also send out [a message](#) to the Asheville Housing Authority, Residence Council and Racial Justice Coalition regarding the implementation of the thirty-day trial period with the Housing Unit.

The Asheville Police Department currently has 84 vehicles equipped with COBAN (in-car camera). The vast majority of these are in patrol vehicles. The primary reason for not equipping every vehicle with COBAN is budgetary, as units cost approximately \$5,000.00 each. Attached please find APD Policy 1801 – Motor Vehicle Recording Equipment that outlines when COBAN is deployed and what the protocols are for use.

Thank you,

Christina Hallingse

Public Information Officer

Asheville Police Department

Office: [\(828\) 259-5881](tel:(828)259-5881)

Cell: [\(828\) 230-4471](tel:(828)230-4471)

From: Asheville Blade [mailto:ashevilleblade@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, July 11, 2016 12:34 PM

To: Christina Hallingse

Cc: Dawa Hitch

Subject: More information about body camera implementation/backlog and use of dash cams

Good afternoon,

At the Citizens' Police Advisory Commission meeting last Wednesday Chief Hooper mentioned that there had been delays in rolling out the body cameras as planned (starting with the public housing unit) due to a "backlog." Please provide some more information on the nature of this backlog, including what parts or pieces had not arrived by July 1 and how it affected the implementation of this equipment.

Also: how many dash or vehicle cameras does the APD have? What units have them? When are they deployed and what are the protocols for their use?

Thanks for your help,

David Forbes

Editor, Asheville Blade

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