



Introduced and read on September 3, 2013

Adopted: 11/5, 2013

Posted: _____ to _____, 2013

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE 11-2013
(Drafted by the Chief of Police)

Introduced by _____

A resolution approving the expenditure of up to, but not exceeding \$17,000 for the purpose of equipping all Mount Rainier Police patrol officers with wearable body cameras; and providing that the monies for said purchase be paid out of City speed camera reserves;

WHEREAS, the use of wearable body cameras (WBC) is an effective tool for law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, wearable body cameras are mobile audio and video devices that allow officers to record what they see and hear. Devices can be attached to various body areas, including the head, by helmet, glasses or other means, or to the body by pocket, badge or other means of attachment (such as in-car on the dash). They have the capability to record officer interactions that previously could only be captured by in-car or interrogation room camera systems; and

WHEREAS, wearable body cameras increase officer safety. Officers are frequently assaulted and involved in traffic crashes while on duty. Representative assaults can be seen in a multitude of police shows where video cameras are used. The use of a camera system, whether in-car or body-worn, can deter violence or other negative behavior and help to convict a person who would choose to attack an officer or an innocent person. It may also reveal other information that might not normally be recorded by officers; and

WHEREAS, wearable body cameras increase officer professionalism. The use of cameras has been shown to help improve the accountability of police officers as well as reduce the number of complaints of police misconduct. There are a number of reports where cameras have cleared officers of improper conduct accusations once the video evidence was reviewed, as opposed to only 5 percent of complaint cases being sustained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of Mount Rainier, Maryland, supports and authorizes the purchase of wearable body cameras for all Mount Rainier Police patrol officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Rainier Police Department is authorized to deploy wearable body cameras only when a policy and procedure general order is issued governing their use and operation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager certifies that there are sufficient speed camera reserves to support the costs of the purchase; and, an amount not to exceed \$17,000 from the Restricted Public Safety Fund Balance (Line Item 5902) shall be transferred to the Speed Camera—Public Safety Related Exp. (Line Item 5900) in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget for the purpose of purchasing wearable body cameras for the Mount Rainier Police Department.

CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 11 -2013

ORDINANCE

Attest:

Jeannelle B. Wallace, City Manager

Melinda Miles

Melinda Miles, Mayor

Jimmy Tarlau

Jimmy Tarlau, Council member

Brent Bolin

Brent Bolin, Council member

Ivy R. Thompson, Council member

Jesse Christopherson, Council member