



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

IVY R. TAYLOR

MAYOR

June 15, 2015

The Honorable Loretta E. Lynch
Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of San Antonio's FY 2015 *Body-Worn Camera Partnership Program* grant application which is to be submitted to the Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance on June 16, 2015. The grant proposal will be requesting \$1,200,000 in Federal funds to purchase body-worn cameras for approximately 1,030 officers, provide training to personnel, and establish a data storage system.

The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) has been working on and developing a body-worn camera program since December of 2013 and has been a local leader in the issue. The City has already deployed approximately 50 body-worn cameras with its Airport Police and conducted an extensive pilot/test program for its regular police patrol operations during the summer of 2014. As a result the City has moved forward with a request for proposals and is currently evaluating vendors to select a final vendor and product to be deployed.

While the Department has deployed dashboard-mounted cameras, these cameras are limited in what they can document due to being affixed to the vehicle. Additionally, the SAPD Downtown Bicycle Patrol Unit and the San Antonio Park Police, due to the nature of their operations, frequently have citizen interactions away from any patrol vehicles. Consequently the deployment of body cameras will augment existing systems in place with the SAPD.

The City of San Antonio Mayor, Council and Manager, as well as the San Antonio Police Department have made a commitment to increase transparency in its policing functions and work towards reducing the number of incidents of force, and citizen complaints. We strongly believe it is imperative that officers be provided with all available tools to ensure safety for the public and officers, as well as document citizen interactions. The goal of the San Antonio Police Department is to obtain body-worn cameras which have shown to be powerful tools in documenting public interactions; increasing transparency and, therefore, community trust;

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and recording evidence necessary for future prosecution. Through proper training, officers and investigators will have the opportunity to utilize the tools in efforts to reinforce positive public perception of law enforcement, to reduce complaints regarding police-citizen interactions, and to create an environment of cooperation between citizens and local law enforcement.

San Antonio, a Promise Zone designee will continue to coordinate with its partners and leverage all local, state and federal resources. Furthermore, the city will engage in specific coordination with the Bexar County District Attorney's office regarding policies and evidence retention related to video recording and data. Additionally, SAPD will engage and communicate with citizen groups prior to the implementation of the program to address expectations from all parties and to promote the transparency established with the program.

I would like to thank you and your team for bringing this program forward and also thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of this application. We are confident that with these additional funds, the City of San Antonio and its partners will continue to work diligently toward the safety and security of our community and police officers.

Sincerely,



Ivy R. Taylor
MAYOR