

*City of Geneva Body Camera Task Force
Tuesday, August 24th at 5pm
City Hall, 2nd floor conference room*

Meeting Notes added by Steph Annear to the agenda in blue

Committee Members Present:

Steph Annear
Christina DeJesus
James Norwalk (Alternate)
Kelly Smolinski
Ben Vasquez
Ahmad Whitfield

Staff/Council Liaisons Present:

Councilor Bill Pealer
Chief Passalacqua
City Manager Sage Gerling

Welcome

- Introductions

Task force: Kelly Smolinski works as a nurse
Ahmad Whitfield is a big teddy bear
Steph Annear flew on NASA's zero gravity simulating airplane
Ben Vasquez (via Zoom) enjoys visiting zoos with his kid
Christina DeJesus (via Zoom) loves hanging out with kids, even/especially teenagers

Alternate: Jim Norwalk is a competitive bird watcher

City Staff: Police Chief Mike Passalacqua is living youth hockey
City Manager Sage Gerling dances ballet every week

Council Liaison: Bill Pealer does an impressive Donald Duck impression
Jan Regan was unable to attend

Agenda Items:

- Review of the Body Camera Task Force's purpose and responsibilities:
https://seureservercdn.net/198.71.233.181/1be.177.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/Body-Camera-Task-Force-Policy-53_adopted.pdf
- Discussion and potential approval of Chair and Secretary
 - Sage reviewed the City of Geneva Police Department Body Camera Policy Task Force Bylaws and led the position discussion.
 - Ben Vasquez volunteered to be Chair and was approved unanimously.
 - It was decided that the Secretary would be a rotating position with meeting

minutes completed by a different member each month. Steph Annear took minutes for the first meeting.

- Chief Passalacqua's overview of Body Cameras and General Order 409 (email from Chief)
 - Chief Passalacqua thoroughly reviewed the existing policy and took questions.
 - He told us about the history of making this policy and about the specific functions of the current equipment (i.e. automatic recording when weapons are drawn or when in proximity of another officer's activated BWC, replacement plan).
 - He gave us examples to explain and contextualize existing policy points.
 - He also told us what future equipment purchases might allow (ie. car hood cameras, backseat cameras).

- Discussion on process for accomplishing the task force's responsibilities
- Assigning action items or homework as applicable
- Establishing a monthly meeting time
 - At this point we were at the hour mark. We decided the next Body Camera Task Force Meeting would be Monday, September 20th at 5:30pm and reoccurring on the 3rd Monday of every month (as of now). We decided to allow up to 1.5 hours for future meetings, always ending by 7:00pm.
 - Jim Norwalk asked us to better define his role as an alternate. We agreed that every vote would only include 5 community members, but that Jim should fully attend and participate, so that he would be ready to be the 5th vote if another member was unable to attend. We also value his active input throughout the process as an additional community member. We clarified that staff and liaison positions on this task force are not voting positions, but are valuable resources for questions our task force has during this process.
 - Steph Annear suggested that, for homework, we all consider the policy goals below (III.A), think of why we volunteered for this task force, and what we learned from Chief Passalacqua's review of the existing policy. Then come to the next meeting with one or more focuses. This way we can get a sense if our group is especially interested in, for example, increasing officer safety, or in better capturing visuals and audio for future investigations, or if we want to equally focus on many areas.
 - Steph especially asked Chief Passalacqua to let us know at the next meeting where he thought BWCs and the policy work best for the GPD and where there might be areas for improvement that we could help research.

III. POLICY

- A.** It is the policy of the Geneva Police Department that sworn Officers shall carry and use only those body cameras issued by the Department. The Geneva Police Department has adopted the use of the AXON video recording system to accomplish the following policy goals:
1. To enhance Officer Safety.
 2. To accurately capture statements and events during the course of an incident.
 3. To enhance the Officer's ability to document and review statements and actions for both internal reporting requirements and for courtroom presentation.
 4. To provide an impartial measurement for self-critique and field evaluation for new Officer training.
 5. To capture visual and audio information for use in current and future investigations.
 6. To enhance the public trust by preserving factual representation of Officer-citizen interactions in the form of audio and video recording.