

News from: **City of Oakland, Mayor's Office**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Police legitimacy, community trust and body cameras**

**Oakland, CA** – Oakland is a leading city in the United States in implementing body cameras that police officers wear on their uniform. President Barack Obama recently announced his support for the use of these cameras. Oakland leaders agree with the advantages of body worn cameras and began implementing their use at the Oakland Police Department in 2010. Currently, OPD has 619 body-worn cameras deployed in the field with officers.

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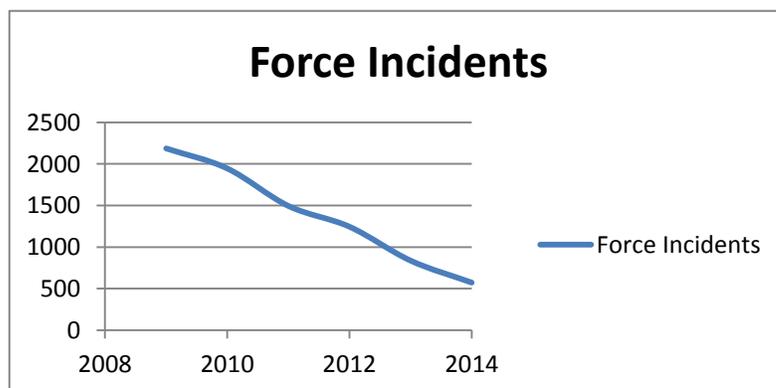
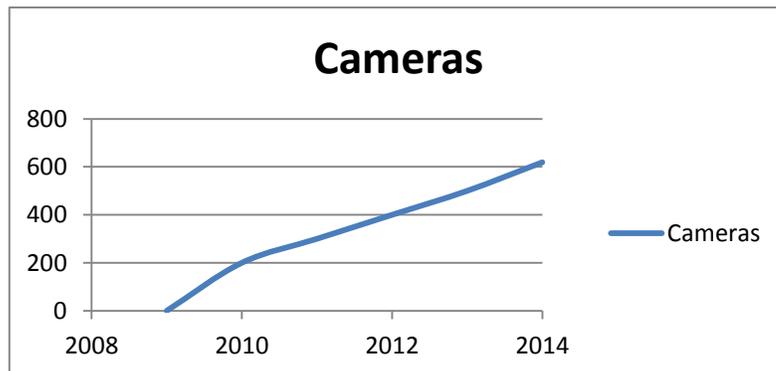
Since implementing the body worn cameras, OPD has seen a significant decrease in incidents involving the use of force by officers.

Body worn cameras deployed:

2009 – Not in use  
2010 – Just under 200  
2011 – Just over 300  
2012 – Just under 400  
2013 – Just under 500  
2014 – 619

Use of Force Incidents:

2009 – 2,186  
2010 – 1,945  
2011 – 1,494  
2012 – 1,244  
2013 – 836  
2014 – 572 year-to-date



[more]

The current national conversations regarding policing are important topics in which City leaders and the Oakland Police Department are deeply invested. Police legitimacy, improved community relationships, and increased public trust are priority issues. An engaged community with trust in the police department will lead to a safer Oakland.

“I’m proud of the progress Oakland police have made in this administration,” Mayor Jean Quan said. “Chief Whent, his command staff and our rank-and-file officers have implemented major police reforms like personal cameras while reducing crime. Over the last few weeks we have facilitated or responded to over 17 demonstrations, and arrested and cited over 240 people. We balance free speech rights for our demonstrators with a need to stop the relatively small number of people who use demonstrations as a cover to break windows, attack officers with rocks and commit other crimes. And our police department has gone more than 18 months without an officer-involved shooting, in a city that used to average about eight such incidents every year.”

City and police leaders understand the historical divides that have existed between police departments and communities throughout this country for many years. Acknowledging these issues, understanding our important role in improving relationships, and dedicating ourselves to finding solutions are important steps toward progress. As community servants we have an obligation to provide police services that the community believes in and views as legitimate. Legitimate policing is credible, lawful, and just. We are committed to implementing policies and practices that foster an environment in which trust and true partnerships are formed. These partnerships are essential to our mission of ushering in a new era of policing in Oakland and creating neighborhoods where people are free to live, work, and thrive.

The ability to capture police interactions provides opportunities to view situations as they happened. In the four years since camera implementation began, video footage captured by body worn cameras has helped us identify training issues, led to disciplinary actions, and proven that officers acted legally and within policy. Further, civilian complaints against police officers have dropped significantly in both 2013 and 2014.

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