



## Office of the Mayor

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# City Moving Forward to Purchase Body-Worn Cameras for Police Officers

STAMFORD, CT – Mayor **David Martin** today announced that the Stamford Police Department (SPD) completed the Body Worn Camera (BWC) field testing pilot program. Based on the officers' feedback, the SPD and City will be moving forward with purchasing a full complement of Body Worn Cameras for the department.

“The City of Stamford is a growing, diverse community with a great police department,” said Mayor Martin. “Many recent events have highlighted the importance of strong, collaborative relationships between the police and the community they serves, with accountability and transparency as priorities. Body-worn cameras are a tool that I support and I believe will improve the safety not only of our police, but the community as a whole.”

The SPD field tested three cameras for more than 100 days. On completion of the field testing program, the information showed the significant majority of officers chose the Axon Body 2 Camera over the other two competitors.

“Moving forward into the final phase of the Body Worn Camera program shows our commitment to further enhancing our relationship with the community as body-worn cameras have been shown to reduce crime, improve public safety and improve public trust between the Police and residents,” added **Ted Jankowski**, Director of Public Safety.

The SPD has partnered with the Stamford Police Association and ten integral community partners to ensure that policies and procedures are in place to address individual's rights, privacy, and safety issues. The partnership includes the: NAACP; ACLU; State's Attorney's Office; Domestic Violence Crisis Center; Sexual Assault Crisis Center; Building One Community; Stamford Hospital; DOMUS Kids; Westside Partnership and Eastside Partnership.

**Jack Bryant**, President of the NAACP in Stamford said, "I applaud Mayor Martin, our Stamford Director of Public Safety and our Stamford Police Chiefs for continuing the effort to equip our Stamford Police Officers with body cameras. The concept of police body cameras has not been easily accepted by all municipalities in Connecticut, but here in Stamford it was accepted from the beginning and Stamford officials have worked with the community to get us to this point."

Police Chief **Jonathan Fontneau** stated, "The trust between law enforcement agencies and the people we protect and serve is essential to the stability of our community. The eventual purchase and use of body-worn cameras will enhance the safe and effective delivery of policing services and will provide the necessary transparency to clear up conflicts and questions."

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