

City of Cincinnati



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David S. Mann
Vice Mayor/Councilmember

MOTION

WE MOVE that the Administration work with City Council and the Mayor to develop a clear policy for the timely release of body camera video in advance of the deployment of any new technology.

Vice Mayor David Mann

Statement

We were recently made aware of the City Manager's communications to local members of the State Senate in support of legislation that would have barred release of any body camera footage to the general public and the press. We strongly disagree with that position.

This motion clarifies that prior to deployment of any body cameras by the Cincinnati Police Department, the City Council will provide clear policy direction for the release of footage. This issue is too important for Council not to handle directly and provide clear guidance on.

Body cameras provide real value to both the police department and the public by making available footage of interactions and altercations that, without footage, can be misunderstood, misconstrued or covered up. If access to these videos is deeply restricted, this value is lost.

We believe strongly that implementing a body camera program in Cincinnati will further enhance this city's commitment to the Collaborative Agreement. Together with the Mayor and City Administration, this Council should develop a policy that provides for the timely release of videos when incidents occur in our community.

Once this policy is established, the Council, the Mayor and the Manager together should share it with our delegation in Columbus. Until that policy has been crafted, we expect that the Manager will clarify his earlier communication with those state legislators.