**Mt. Vernon Police Department Camera Grant Report**

**1669-6154**

The Mt. Vernon Police Department purchased 15 in-car cameras with funds granted by ILETSB in 2018. All 15 cameras were installed in a “marked” patrol squad car by 08/15/19.

The cameras are automatically activated by a position switch on the emergency lighting controller. The cameras stay activated and record sound from a, body worn microphone, and in car microphone, until the officer terminates the recording manually. The recording is then classified by type, for example, traffic stop/citation, traffic stop/warning, emergency response, traffic crash, DUI, miscellaneous, or test recording, etc.

The recordings automatically upload to a large in-house storage-based server with redundant back up technology. The recording software automatically purges the recordings after a pre-determined set time based on the type of recording. They are retained for a shorter amount of time for misdemeanors and a longer time for felonies.

Supervisors have desktop access to the server to review videos when requested by the public, for complaints, for training purposes, or for regular officer performance evaluations. Supervisors have no ability to alter the original recording. They only have access to “view and burn” all videos recorded. Officers’ have access to “view and record only” of their own recordings.

 In August of 2019, The Mt. Vernon began uploading videos from the sever used to store the “In-car Camera” videos directly to our records management software. This will allow the State’s Attorney’s Office to view them without requesting a copy on DVD. By doing this we streamlined the process of getting important information needed for the prosecution of offenders to the courts. We also eliminated having to burn many video disks that were discarded after trials or upon no charges.

The change in the way the Mt. Vernon Police Department has archived the videos has made the collection of requested data very difficult. The camera systems we purchased under the grant are WatchGuard systems. The data the systems provide is only the date, time, car # and Officer #.

We no longer have the details or the staffing to provide the details like, date charges filed, Court Case number, and court dispositions. The video systems just do not provide this information.