Manteno Police Department

Body Camera Report

2018

The Manteno Police Department is made up of 18 sworn personnel. In addition to the chief of Police we have one Lieutenant, Three shift Sergeants, One Detective Sergeant, School resource Officer, eleven patrol officers, and one Aux officer. The department obtained two body cameras in early September of 2018 for a trial basis to see if the department wants to implement a body worn camera program for its officers. Currently we have three officers who are assigned the cameras during their shifts. The cameras have also been utilized by officers on occasion for obtaining interviews by members of the investigation’s division.

The cameras have been very useful documenting calls the officers have gone on; however, there are some technical difficulties we have experienced. The mounting clip our department utilizes is a magnetic one which on a couple of occasions due to the design would get caught on items and fall off. During an accident scene investigation, a camera fell off and was later located on the side of one of the vehicles that was involved in the crash. During a large fight, a camera was knocked off and located on the ground after the scuffle was over. The body camera company has since sent us a new design and we currently haven’t had any other issues with cameras being knocked off. Another issue we have experienced is batteries not lasting for long periods of time and the cameras having to be recharged. The officers then have to remember to grab it out of the charger when they have to respond to something unexpectedly. Finally, we have had some uploading issues where some videos have failed to upload to our system, and some take a long time. We have been working with our IT department and our video system provider on this issue.

The Manteno Police Department shift supervisors and administrators currently review body camera footage as needed for the creation of case files for video evidence obtained. Supervisors are also authorized to review relevant recordings any time they are investigating alleged misconduct or reports of meritorious conduct or whenever such recordings would be beneficial in reviewing an officer’s performance.

The Manteno Police Department has used body cameras during investigations and arrests and copies of the videos have been sent to the States Attorney’s Office; however, at this time we are not aware of any footage that has been utilized in court for prosecution. They currently have not been used in any civil or internal investigation. (See attached Report)

This report has been completed by Lieutenant Brian J. Lockwood of the Manteno Police Department. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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