



City of Alton, Illinois

POLICE DEPARTMENT
1700 EAST BROADWAY
ALTON, ILLINOIS 62002
(618) 463-3591

Sgt Andrew Pierson
Traffic Division Supervisor
pierson@altonpolice.com

April 30, 2021

To whom it may concern:

As per 50 ILCS 707/15, Rules; In-car Video Camera Grants, the City of Alton (Alton Police Department), submits this annual report for distribution to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB), the Governor of the State of Illinois, and the Illinois General Assembly, as mandated for completion on or before May 1st of each year.

On March 2, 2020, the City of Alton completed the purchase of seventeen WatchGuard brand dash camera systems, at a cost of \$85,137.00. A request for Illinois Camera Grant funding had been made through the ILETSB. In June 2020 the City of Alton was approved for \$81,192.00.

Beginning in March 2020, the seventeen camera systems were installed in seventeen Alton Police Department squad cars. All seventeen camera systems remain in service as of the date of this report.

A brief description of the Alton Police Department's review process of the captured dash camera recordings are as follows:

1. The WatchGuard camera system software has been programmed to permit the patrol officer to view their own captured videos. This access allows the officer to refresh his/her memory for report writing purposes, investigations, and court room testimony. Patrol Officers do not have the ability to manipulate, change or to surreptitiously delete a recorded video.
2. Supervisors have permissions to review all recorded videos. Upon reviewing, they are tasked with ensuring the following: the video record is appropriately categorized with the description; the recording officer's name is attached to the video record; and the appropriate case information has been assigned. Supervisors also review video records for compliance with Alton Police Department Policy and Illinois Law. Supervisors do not have the ability to manipulate, change, or to surreptitiously delete a recorded video.
3. Administrators have all the permissions of a Supervisor, and the same authorization to review video records. Administrators conduct random audits to ensure that Alton Police Department policy and Illinois Law are being followed. Other than determining individualized time lines for the automated deletion of records under specified categories, as authorized by Illinois law, the Administrators do not have the ability to manipulate, change, or surreptitiously delete a recorded video.

On March 5, 2021, the City of Alton experienced a catastrophic network issue where data was permanently lost. This includes all digitally stored WatchGuard video recordings, which had not been physically burned to a DVD, and stored in our evidence vault. The City of Alton's Director of



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Information Technology, Jarvis Swope, can be reached at 618-463-3500 extension 291, if there are any questions about this issue.

It should also be noted that due to a leak in the trunk of Squad #193, the WatchGuard DVR2-077135 was damaged and replaced by WatchGuard with DVR2-077034. I have included an updated roster.

An attached form lists all criminal, traffic, ordinance, and civil cases in which the Alton Police Department's in-car video recordings were utilized. The list covers from April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sgt A Pierson 0705".

Sergeant Andrew Pierson
Traffic Division Supervisor