Manteno Police Department

Body Camera Report

2019

The Manteno Police Department is made up of 19 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. The department has decided to implement the program and has ordered a total of 5 more body cameras which are set to arrive in 2020. These cameras have turned out to be very useful in accurately depicting calls for service and obtaining evidence. The cameras have also been utilized on a regular basis for obtaining interviews by members of the investigation’s division. We are also in the process of looking into replacing the current video system utilized in our interview rooms to just utilizing body worn cameras so the interviews can be directly uploaded to the cloud and sent to the States Attorney’s office as opposed to making several DVDs.

The cameras have been very useful documenting calls the officers have gone on; however, there are still some technical difficulties we have experienced, but mostly due to user error. Once we get in the new cameras and everyone is required to use them on a regular basis a training will be put on to make sure officers are operating them properly. One 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. This is mostly due to the fact that we only have 2 cameras, so they are being used constantly without being charged. Receipt of the new cameras should eliminate this issue as well the training that will be put on.

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.

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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