

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 7/30/2020

### "Police Camera Updates"

During their meeting on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Sylvania City Council approved Ordinance 45-2020 authorizing the purchase of new in-car dash cams and body worn cameras for the Division of Police.

After a year of investigation and testing, equipment as manufactured by WatchGuard was chosen at a State contract pricing cost of \$99,682.50. Delivery is expected this fall. Two body worn cameras used for system testing will continue to be used until the new system is delivered.

The equipment package includes thirteen in-car cameras, seventeen body worn cameras, two transfer station kits, two interview room cameras and operating software. This package includes enough cameras for all on-duty uniform personnel.

This new camera system replaces a ten year old in-car system currently mounted on police vehicle dashboards. Dash cams are the source of many police video shown on television. The City's first dash cam system was put in use about twenty years ago and utilized VHS tapes.

The new system includes electronic data transfer onto a central storage unit of both dash cam and body worn camera data. The new system includes software to redact or blur any private or inappropriate information before release. Images from body worn cameras worn into homes have to meet privacy requirements that have now been addressed by State policy and is part of the software.

Because the Sylvania Police Division is now certified by the Ohio Police Collaborative, the use and policies of camera use must also be in compliance with the Collaborative requirements.

I believe these new in-car cameras and body worn cameras will be an asset for our community. Both the public and the police officers will have access to an accurate video record of events as they happened.



# BODY-WORN CAMERAS



V300