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COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION

For Immediate Release

November 2, 2017

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ALBANY POLICE TO LAUNCH BODY WORN CAMERA PROGRAM

ALBANY, NY – The Albany Police Department today announced that beginning on Monday, November 6, 2017, members of the Department will begin wearing body worn cameras as part of their daily operations.

Over the next several weeks, members of the department will be receiving specific training and issued their body worn camera as part of a step-by-step process. The goal during this time period is to ensure that the officers are familiar with the cameras, that the cameras are functioning properly and that they fully understand the Department's policy and expectations. It's imperative that all aspects of the program are working properly.

“The Albany Police Department values the communities trust and understands the importance of transparency in the work that we do,” said Acting Albany Police Chief Robert Sears. “Body worn cameras are simply another tool that will ensure that our department continues to be transparent and accountable. We recognize that audio and video recordings of certain street encounters and events may provide an objective record of the event, one which can be ultimately used to aid in investigations and enhance public trust.”

On June 16, 2015, the Department applied for a grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to develop, implement and evaluate a body worn camera program in the City of Albany that would consist of a planned and phased approach that would achieve broad stakeholder, local political leadership and community engagement and input on policy, training, deployment and procurement. On September 21, 2015, the Department was awarded the grant in the amount of \$133,305.00 which required a 100% match and to follow The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) “Implementing a Body Worn Camera Program.”

In January of 2016, a stakeholder committee, made up of many people from the Albany community, was formed to ensure that many from the community were included in conversations and implementation of a body worn camera program in the City. The committee was also essential in drafting the Department's body worn camera policy. Additionally, during this process, the committee was broken up into four sub-committees to discuss important topics relevant to the body worn camera program. The sub-committees formed were – Data Collection and Retention, Policy Development and Training, Privacy and Internal and External Complaints/Analysis. At many stages throughout the process, a copy of the draft policy was available to view at www.albanypd.wordpress.com. This website also provided an opportunity for the public to provide comments and feedback about the draft policy.

Following a pilot program in which 20 officers volunteered to test body worn cameras supplied by four different vendors, the Department has chosen to utilize the Axon Body 2 body worn camera made by Axon. The



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Axon Body 2 will eventually be worn by all patrol officers, traffic safety officers, K-9 handlers and members of the Neighborhood Engagement Unit at the Albany Police Department during calls for service and street encounters. The Axon Body 2 was also chosen because of its features, many which we believe will be beneficial to both our officers and the members of the community. Some of those features include:

- Pre-event buffer of 30 seconds
- Several mounts available
- Full color audiovisual camera
- 143 degree diagonal view
- 107 degree horizontal view
- 78 degree vertical view
- Date and time automatically embedded into video.

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