



Kansas Sheriffs' Association

PO Box 1122, Pittsburg, KS 66762

Phone: (620) 230-0864 ★ Fax: (620) 230-0866

Sheriff Sandy Horton, Ret., Executive Director

Sheriff John R. Fletcher, Ret., Deputy Director

www.kansassheriffs.org

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight Regarding Law Enforcement Use of Body and Vehicle Cameras

November 13, 2018

Sen. Molly Baumgardner, Chair, Rep. Russ Jennings, Vice Chair, and Committee Members, my name is Sheriff Jeff Easter of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office and the Kansas Sheriff's Association Legislative Chair. I would like to share the below information with you.

On November 8th, the KSA had a conference in Dodge City, Ks. Mr. Ed Klumpp and I presented information to the Sheriffs of Kansas on legislative issues. The majority of Kansas Sheriffs were in attendance. Below is a summary of the questions asked and the answers.

1. Any issues with the current camera legislation that was implemented on July 1, 2018?
 - Some reported they have been contacted by family to release video within the 20 day period and experienced no issues.
 - Most reported no issues with the new legislation except for the cost of redaction.
 - One sheriff's office reported spending \$30,000 to redact several videos from a violent crime caught on video.
2. How many sheriff offices currently have dash or body worn cameras?
 - All the sheriffs in attendance reported that they either have dash cameras or body worn cameras in operation.
3. How many sheriff's offices have body worn cameras?
 - About 75% of the sheriffs reported having body worn cameras in operation.
4. What policy do you have in place to regulate camera systems?
 - There were three separate policies that sheriff offices are using.
 - a) On any incident the camera must be turned on and in use.
 - b) The policy is incident related.
 - c) The policy is officer suggested.
5. If you do not have body worn cameras, what is the reason?
 - The only reason given was the cost. For the most part it is not the cost of the camera but the on-going cost for storage.

As you can see sheriffs do believe in cameras and the video that is captured for many reasons. Most are equipped with body worn cameras and those that do not have them yet stated it was a cost issue.

Thank you for allowing KSA to be a part of this important conversation.

Sheriff Jeffrey T. Easter
Legislative Chair for the Kansas Sheriff's Association