

City of Rochester, New York BWC Grant Application

COPS and PERF Recommendations

RPD will ensure that issues identified in the PERF COPS Program Implementation Considerations Report as addressed as follows:

Privacy considerations: A Policy Development Team and Community Input Team will be established as part of the BWC Project containing key stakeholders. They will ensure that privacy considerations from the perspective of the public and the criminal justice system are properly addressed. These teams will solicit community input through open forums to ensure their input on key concerns to include privacy, when to record, and release of information. Members of the community will be asked to actively participate as members of the teams.

Impact on community relations: The Community Input Team will ensure key community stakeholders have input in various portions of the project (e.g., privacy, policy, etc.). Increasing community trust is a key goal of this project; therefore, the performance measures and associate independent program evaluation will ensure that these goals are properly assessed. During the Department's recent Reorganization Project multiple community sessions were held and similar sessions are planned for this project. City residents, business owners, non-profit organizations, student organizations, community groups, and members of clergy will all have an opportunity to provide input. This input is essential for ensuring transparency in the process and the implementation of BWC technology has the intended positive impact on police/community relations. During 2013 RPD conducted an independent survey of community perception of RPD. *See Attachment 2, Cornell Poll.* This study provides critical pre-BWC program information relating to community perception. RPD's BWC Project Evaluation will include a similar independent study to evaluate the impact of RPD's Project. The Mayor and Rochester's City

Council have already taken proactive steps to assess the community's perceptions and views on the use of BWCs. This data will also be available to help assess impact of the program. *See* Attachments 5 & 6, Telephone Town Hall and City Council Online Survey.

Addressing officer concerns: The BWC Project will involve multiple working groups comprised of sworn members. This process was followed during the Reorganization project, in which over 100 sworn members of the Department actively participated in at least one component of the project. These officers participated in developing policy, training, and multiple sub-projects associated with Reorganization. Participation in the BWC Project will involve officers in policy development, technology selection, technology assessment, community engagement, training development, and technology implementation. The Police Union President has joined with the Mayor and Chief of Police in a public announcement of support for a BWC program in Rochester. *See* Attachment 3, Joint Announcement. The City and union will negotiate specific aspects of the BWC policy that are mandatory subjects of negotiation under New York law.

Managing expectations: the BWC Project's robust external and internal communication plan and commitment to seek input and communicate project milestones is intended to both inform and manage expectations. This ensures that BWC technology is not inappropriately considered a solution to all issues relate to convictions, transparency, and ambiguity.

Ensuring Partnerships with associated criminal justice agencies: Criminal Justice System partnerships are critical to promoting procedural justice and enhancing investigations and prosecutions. Monroe County's District Attorney and Public Defender have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with RPD in support of these goals through the Project. *See* Attachment 9, MOU RPD DA and PD.

Financial considerations: While the City faces the ongoing challenge of extreme poverty, it is committed to very sound fiscal management practices for decades. The City adopts an annual operating budget that balances the need for critical municipal services and infrastructure with the community's ability to pay, and the need to maintain adequate financial reserves. Capital planning is accomplished annually through a rigorous five-year Capital Improvement Program, the first year of which is adopted by City Council as part of the annual budget. The current City fiscal year budget, as amended through April 30, 2015, is \$503.6 million.

The City maintains a conservative debt borrowing policy, established in 1981, whereby the annual authorization of general fund debt in any fiscal year is limited to the principal amount to be retired in the same fiscal year. Maturities for General Obligation debt are limited to half of the period of probable usefulness set by New York State Finance Law. This results in an accelerated debt repayment schedule whereby 90% of the total outstanding debt is repaid within ten years. The City has a credit rating of A+ from both Standard and Poor's and Fitch, and A3 from Moody's Investor Service.

RPD is committed to the BWC program and critical members of City leadership have completed letters that document their support for the long-term financial viability of this program. Included are letters of support from critical members of the COR's leadership team. *See Attachments 18, Mayor's Letter of Support; 19, Senior Management Team Letter of Support; and 20, City Council Letter of Support.*

The BWC Project budget submission includes line item expenses that RPD is committed to spending in support of this project. The assignment of a Police Lieutenant to this project represents a significant financial commitment to the implementation and continued management of the program.

Technical specifications and considerations: An approved IT business case ensures the commitment of City IT resources for the BWC Project. This RFP should be issued in July 2015. RPD review of critical reports on BWC technology, along with the specific technical guidance provided in this grant solicitation (BJA-2015-4168) will be incorporated into the technical requirements of the RFP as well as the resulting evaluation scripts.

Use of Data, training, and program evaluation: RPD has demonstrated the ability to successfully implement projects and evaluate results. This includes our Reorganization project, as well as our current participation in the BJA Smart Policing, NYS DCJS GIVE and PSN grant programs. *See* Attachments 21, Reorganization Plan; 22, Reorganization Evaluation Metrics; 23, GIVE Grant Abstract; 24, SPI Grant Abstract; and 25 PSN Grant Abstract. RPD has a longstanding relationship with RIT's CPSI and associated evidence-based initiatives that provide best practices in law enforcement. CPSI provides critical assistance for program evaluation that is based on their commitment to program implementation and experience evaluating Federal and NY State programs. RPD proposes that BJA authorize CPSI to perform an independent evaluation as a sub-recipient for the project. RIT CPSI is currently providing similar services, and has established this independence as part of the BJA PSN Grant. RIT/CPSI has provided documentation specific to BJA-2015-4168 pages 26-28 addressing research independence and integrity and mitigation of research integrity concerns *See* Attachment 12, MOU RPD and CPSI. The RIT Code of Ethics and policy (which binds CPSI) related to protecting human subjects are too lengthy to be included in this grant application, and can be found at the following de-activated links: http://www.rit.edu/research/hsro/protecting_human_subjects_rit and <http://www.rit.edu/fa/svp/ethics/code.html> (hyperlinks have been deactivated). RPD, City IT, and other City employees involved in the BWC project will adhere to the City's Codes of Ethic that

support the ability to maintain integrity throughout this sub-recipient relationship. *See* Attachment 26, City Code of Ethics.