



Letter of Support for Body-Worn Camera Program

I would like to express my unqualified support and commitment to a Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program for the Rochester Police Department (RPD).

As Mayor, my goals are to improve educational outcomes for city students, increase economic development, improve public safety and community-police relations and address the stark economic disparities that plague many parts of the City. Despite many challenges—including extreme poverty—we are actively engaged in a wide range of projects and initiatives to improve the quality of life in residential neighborhoods and investment opportunities in commercial districts. They include changes to a streetscape, environmental upgrades, educational programs, and the adoption of new technology. Projects and initiatives are achieving significant improvements in key areas, such as public safety, economic development, education, and customer service.

One of my top priorities as Mayor is improvement of public safety and community-police relations. To that end, we are aggressively implementing a true community-policing model in Rochester. We have developed and implement a reorganization of the Police Department from a centralized structure to a community-based neighborhood patrol model. We are now engaged in a facility needs assessment and site selection process with the goal of establishing a neighborhood police station for our new sections. We will also undertake an intensive evaluation of the reorganization project to ensure program goals and objectives are met. This is one of many initiatives to reach out to our residents and achieve a true community policing approach.

I recognize that BWCs have the potential to significantly improve trust between a police department and the people it serves, and is another important step in our overall community policing strategy. By deploying BWCs, a police department can reaffirm its commitment to fairness, integrity, and service. Furthermore, many organizations and individuals in the community have advocated for a BWC program in Rochester.

Accordingly, in December 2014, I joined with Rochester Police Chief Michael L. Ciminelli and police union President Mike Mazzeo to publicly announce that the City of Rochester is committed to establishing a BWC program for RPD. By that time we had already commenced a process to work through a number of technical, policy, labor, and cost factors to achieve this goal. Our process is continuing forward, and we remain committed to establishing a BWC program for RPD during 2015-16 fiscal year.

I am committed to making this a reality, and I am personally serving as the Executive Sponsor of the Project Team that will develop and implement our BWC program. I have made this a priority in my Administration with my Senior Management Team. We will apply the same level of motivation, initiative, commitment, innovation, and effort that has resulted in the successful implementation of many major projects and initiatives in the City of Rochester.

We are committed to supporting and funding the establishment and long-term continuation of the BWC program through our capital and operational budgeting process after the exhaustion of federal funding. We will also continue to aggressively seek out additional funding opportunities, such as public and private grants.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Lovely A. Warren
Mayor

