

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

ED QUATREVAUX, INSPECTOR GENERAL



October 23, 2014

Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor
City of New Orleans
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Mayor Landrieu,

I am writing to commend you on the purchase of body cameras for the New Orleans Police Department. I believe that this decision results in the greatest leveraged investment possible in police-community relations.

I have enclosed a report by the Society for Evidence-based Policing of the United Kingdom. (www.policefoundation.org/content/body-worn-camera). The report describes an experiment conducted for a full year involving all patrol officers in Rialto, California. The patrol shifts were divided into two groups: “experimental” with cameras; and “control” without cameras.

The control shifts recorded twice as many use-of-force incidents as the experimental shifts. The force as a whole experienced 2.5 times fewer incidents than in the preceding 12 months. Moreover, examination of camera footage revealed that incidents involving the experimental shifts resulted in lower levels of force applied. In use-of-force incidents by the experimental shifts, the citizen initiated the physical contact 100% of the time, whereas in 4 of 17 incidents involving the control shifts, the police officer initiated physical contact. However, the most important result was the drop in citizen complaints from 28 to 3.

This scientifically rigorous experiment proved this technology’s power to resolve, even eliminate, citizen complaints of police misconduct. My understanding is that NOPD plans to buy another 100 cameras so that patrol shifts and specialized units are fully equipped.

Again, I commend you for deciding to invest in this technology and urge you to continue your support to this effort.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Quatrevaux'.