

SOCORRO POLICE DEPARTMENT		GENERAL ORDERS	
SUBJECT: AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING		NUMBER: 2-40	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 7-28-17		REVIEW DATE:	
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES:		APPROVED: _____ Chief Mike Winders	
NMSA 29-1-14			

NOTE:

This rule or regulation is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Socorro Police Department for patrol officers to audio/video record all police related activities.

II. PURPOSE

Audio/video recordings have proven to be valuable evidence in criminal investigations. They also help guard against frivolous complaints of improper conduct against officers. All patrol officers are required to audio/video record all police related activities where a crime may have been committed or any situation where a complaint could be leveled against an officer or the department.

III. Video recording (Mandatory)

A. Video recording procedures

The Body Camera Video Recording Device used by police officers is intended to document the officers and the public's actions and statements during any police related interaction. It will also aid the officer in writing accurate reports, aid in investigations, and ultimately aid in prosecuting traffic and criminal

offences as well as to improve officers' performances through training. Aims of the Body Camera Video Recording Device include:

1. Documentation of events, actions, or statements made during arrests and critical incidents to enhance report preparation and investigation; and
2. Assisting the agency in reviewing field practices, especially legal requirements of probable cause, arrest, and searches and seizures.

B. Operational guidelines

1. All officers are to be assigned a Body Camera Video Recording Device and shall be responsible for operating it according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Officers shall be trained its proper use by their supervisor.
2. Prior to the officers' daily tour of duty, he shall test his assigned Body Camera Video Recording Device to ensure that it is working properly. Problems or discrepancies shall be reported immediately to the supervisor.
3. Officers shall activate their Body Camera Video Recording Device during any police related contact with the public. Officers shall document anytime the Body Camera Video Recording Device is deactivated during use.
 - a. When the Body Camera Video Recording Device is activated, officers should articulate reasonable suspicion or probable cause: this articulation shall continue through the entire recorded interaction. On traffic stops, the officer should articulate the type of vehicle, location of stop, license number and description of occupants.
 - b. The officer has no obligation to inform a subject that he or she is being video or audio recorded.
 - c. Officers shall not erase or in any way alter any recordings.
 - d. When the device is near full officers shall download the recorded files to the designated server for downloading/copying of the

recordings.

- e. Officers are required to provide recordings of major incidents as soon as possible.
- f. All recordings are potential evidence and should be treated as such. Recording will be tagged and logged into evidence. All recordings where an arrest was made will be tagged/logged into evidence and noted in the report.
- g. Under no circumstances except those instances involving criminal investigations of department personnel will a conversation between another member or employee be recorded without all parties to the conversation being aware of the fact that it will be recorded.
- h. Audio only recorders may be used as a backup system but shall not be used as a replacement for the Body Camera Video Recording Device.
- i. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action. Repeated violations of this policy can result in termination.