

# RPD to share body camera info with community coalition

Shawn Murphy  
 Rochester Democrat and Chronicle  
 TODAY NETWORK

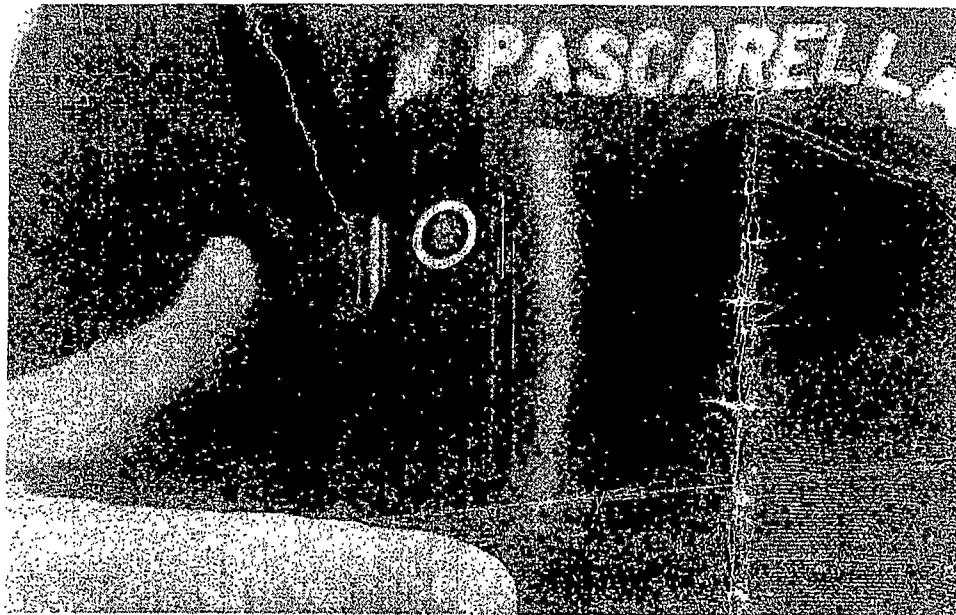
The city of Rochester Tuesday announced a information-sharing agreement with an independent community coalition regarding its new police body camera program.

The agreement formalizes an arrangement that's largely been in place since the body cameras were first introduced. Members from the Coalition for Police Reform, drawn in large part from the local United Christian Leadership Ministry, have ready access to public information regarding the cameras and meet quarterly with city and RPD representatives to discuss how they're being used.

"This is a positive move toward overcoming suspicion and developing trust and legitimacy," said Rev. Lewis Stewart, co-chairman of the coalition. "It is a rare opportunity for a citizens group to work with law enforcement on equal footing to promote justice and transparency."

The new venture, called the Community Justice Advisory Board Initiative, will not grant those community members access to otherwise confidential information. Both Stewart and Mayor Robert Warren said it is distinct from the independent Police Accountability Board that UCLM and other advocacy groups have long demanded.

RPD officers switched on the first body cameras in August 2016; they were deployed across the entire department in March. Since then they have generated tens of thousands of hours of footage of officer-civilian interactions.



A body camera used by the Gates Police Department. Results from a poll released Monday showed that most area residents think Rochester police officers should wear body cameras. SHAWN DOWD/@SDOWDPHOTO/STAFF FILE PHOTO 2014

The department has randomly reviewed 726 incidents for compliance. Of those, officers complied with department policy regarding the cameras 676 times, or 93 percent of the time, according to the most recent data.

"We've seen a number of videos where the officer's conduct and demeanor has been very good; we've seen some where it hasn't been good," Chief Michael Ciminelli said. "We have to understand these videos aren't going to answer every question in every situation. In many situations, it does give us more information to gauge how the officers conducted themselves and, frankly, how the civilians involved conducted

of camera that is smaller and easier to connect with the computers in officers' cars, among other things. They will likely be in use throughout the department in January, Ciminelli said.

Since the cameras were first introduced, the Locust Club, representing police officers, has complained the program was rushed and poorly thought out. Warren said Tuesday the city is negotiating with the union over its concerns, some of which are addressed with the new model of camera.

Locust Club President Michael Mazzeo was not at the press conference announcing the new coalition and could not immediately be reached for com-

EXHIBIT - A

## JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, September 21, 2015

### **Justice Department Awards over \$23 Million in Funding for Body Worn Camera Pilot Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies in 32 States**

As part of President Obama's commitment to building trust and transparency between law enforcement and the communities they serve, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch today announced that the Justice Department has awarded grants totaling more than \$23.2 million to 73 local and tribal agencies in 32 states to expand the use of body-worn cameras and explore their impact. The body-worn camera pilot program announced in May 2015 includes \$19.3 million to purchase body-worn cameras, \$2 million for training and technical assistance and \$1.9 million to examine the impact of their use. The grants, awarded by the department's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), build on President Obama's proposal to purchase 50,000 body-worn cameras for law enforcement agencies within three years.

"This vital pilot program is designed to assist local jurisdictions that are interested in exploring and expanding the use of body-worn cameras in order to enhance transparency, accountability and credibility," said Attorney General Lynch. "The impact of body-worn cameras touches on a range of outcomes that build upon efforts to mend the fabric of trust, respect and common purpose that all communities need to thrive."

The grants, which require a 50/50 in-kind or cash match, can be used to purchase equipment and require that applicants establish a strong implementation plan and a robust training policy before purchasing cameras. Each agency awarded a grant is responsible for developing a plan for long-term storage, including the cost of storing data.

In addition to funds to help purchase body-worn cameras and train officers in their use, grants under the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA's) Smart Policing Initiative will support police departments in Miami, Milwaukee and Phoenix as they examine the impact of body-worn cameras on citizen complaints, internal investigations, privacy, community relationships and cost effectiveness. Each of these three departments will partner with a research institution to gain insight on the merits of deploying body-worn camera programs.

Lynch announced the award today during a White House *Champions of Change* event co-hosted by OJP and the Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS Office). The event honored law enforcement officers and young people who are leading efforts to improve relationships between law enforcement and youth in their communities.

BJA has launched a comprehensive online toolkit that consolidates research, promising practices, model policies and other tools that address issues surrounding body-worn cameras, including implementation requirements; image retention; concerns of policy makers, prosecutors, victim and privacy advocates; and community engagement and funding considerations. The toolkit is available at <https://www.bja.gov/bwcc/>.

OJP's Bureau of Justice Statistics is collecting data on body-worn camera usage through surveys of law enforcement agencies. It is also designing data collection forms for future surveys of prosecutors and public

EXHIBIT-B

For additional information about the BWC Pilot Implementation Program, visit <http://www.bja.gov/bwc/pdfs/BWCPIP-Award-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

**About the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)**

OJP, headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six components: BJA; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)

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**Topic(s):**

Grants

**Press Release Number:**

15-1145

**Component(s):**

Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

*Updated November 10, 2016*

## JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 21, 2018

### **Justice Department Awards \$56 Million to Support Law Enforcement Health and Safety**

Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker today announced awards of over \$56 million in grant funding awarded last month through the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to enhance state, local, and tribal law enforcement safety and wellness. OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance and National Institute of Justice awarded grants to law enforcement departments, local jurisdictions, and training, technical assistance and research organizations throughout the United States. The funds will be used to provide services designed to protect officers and improve overall public safety. Acting Attorney General Whitaker announced the grants today during remarks to the Joint Terrorism Task Force in New York City.

"In the Trump administration, we back the blue," Acting Attorney General Whitaker said. "One of President Trump's first Executive Orders was to tell this Department to enhance the safety of America's law enforcement officers--and that is exactly what these grants will do. We are providing them with bulletproof vests, body-worn cameras, training, and health and safety research. These grants awarded last month are helping us to take care of the men and women in blue--because they take care of us every day."

"America's law enforcement officers often risk life and limb to safeguard our communities, and the stressors of their jobs can cause a heavy emotional toll," said OJP's Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Matt M. Dummermuth. "In fact, law enforcement officers have high rates of on-the-job injury, psychological illness, and suicide. These awards will provide crucial resources and training to help protect the physical and mental health of those who are dedicated to protecting the safety of our communities."

The FBI's official crime data for 2017 reflects that, after two consecutive, historic increases in violent crime, in the first year of the Trump Administration the nationwide violent crime rate began to decline. Despite this decline, violent attacks on police officers are on the rise. More than 60,000 line-of-duty assaults were committed against officers in 2017, a five percent increase from 2016, according to the FBI.

The Department of Justice is committed to ensuring officer safety. Over the past year, the Department has partnered with all levels of law enforcement, local organizations, and members of the community to reduce violent crime and make American neighborhoods safer, including the invigoration of Project Safe Neighborhoods and announcement of \$30 million to help combat violent crime. Recently, the Department hosted a law enforcement roundtable and announced funds and technical assistance resources to help law enforcement investigate and prosecute hate crimes, and announced a new active shooter training grant to provide multi-disciplinary, scenario-based active shooter training to help better protect and equip first responders across the country.

More than \$29.8 million will reimburse jurisdictions for up to 50 percent of the cost of body armor vests purchased for law enforcement officers; \$12 million will support law enforcement safety and wellness

EXHIBIT-C

programs, research and services; and \$12.2 million will support the implementation of law enforcement agencies' body-worn camera programs.

In addition, over \$2 million is addressing safety, health and wellness priorities through research and evaluation. These investments include the development of ballistic vests, studies of in-vehicle safety, and the evaluation of less-lethal technologies to increase police and public safety.

For a complete list of individual grant programs, amounts awarded, and the jurisdictions that will receive funding, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xPUfH>. Additional information about Fiscal Year 2018 OJP grant awards can be found online at <https://go.usa.gov/xnqk5>.

- ✧ The Office of Justice Programs, led by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Matt M. Dummermuth, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP and its components can be found at: [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).
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**Attachment(s):**

[Download LE Wellness-Safety Fact Sheet](#)

**Component(s):**

[Office of Justice Programs \(OJP\)](#)

[Office of the Attorney General](#)

**Press Release Number:**

18-1535

*Updated November 21, 2018*

Vernon Roberts, #12-B-1429  
Five Points Correctional Facility  
State Route 96, P.O. Box 119.  
Romulus, New York. 14541

December 23, 2018

TO: Freedom of Information Officer,  
Department of Justice.  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Subject: Freedom of Information Request.  
Pursuant to, Title 5 U.S.C. Section  
552 et seq.

Dear Freedom of Information Officer:

Pursuant to the above subject provisions of Federal law. I hereby request copy of the following records maintained by your various divisions and bureaus contained within your computer data base files. Consistent with the waiver of fees allowed by the Director of Budget and management, as such:

1. Copy of. Any and all computerized records. Maintained by your Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) comprehensive online toolkit covering model policies, practices, image retention. For local law enforcement agency body worn camera policies; as contained on: [www.bja.gov/bwcl](http://www.bja.gov/bwcl). As, I do not have access to the internet
2. Copy of. Any grant application and award. Submitted and approved for body worn cameras. By, the City of Rochester, New York. And/or its police department.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response!!

cc:  
V.R. (Files)

Sincerely,  
Vern - Roberts

EXHIBIT-D



Washington, D.C. 20530

January 7, 2019

Vernon Roberts  
DIN : 18-B-1489  
LOC: 8 Bldg B1-23b  
Five Point Correctional Facility  
State Route 96, PO BOX 119  
Romulus, NY 14542

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is in response to your request for records, Tracking Number, MRU-FOIA-67-199. Your Freedom of Information Act and/or Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request was received by this office which serves as the receipt and referral unit for FOIA/PA requests addressed to the Department of Justice (DOJ). Federal agencies are required to respond to a FOIA request within 20 business days. This period does not begin until the request is actually received by the component within the DOJ that maintains the records sought, or ten business days after the request is received in this office, whichever is earlier.

We have referred your request to the DOJ component(s) you have designated or, based on descriptive information you have provided, to the component(s) most likely to have the records. All future inquiries concerning the status of your request should be addressed to the office(s) listed below:

FOIA/PA  
Office of Justice Programs  
Department of Justice  
Room 5400,  
810 7th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
(202) 307-6235

Sincerely,

MRUFOIA  
Logistics Management  
Facilities and Administrative Services Staff  
Justice Management Division

EXHIBIT -E



Office of the General Counsel

Washington, D.C. 20531

JAN 08 2019

VIA U.S. Mail

Vernon Roberts, #18-B-1489  
Five Points Correctional Facility  
State Route 96  
P.O. Box 119  
Romulus, New York 14541

Re: OJP FOIA No. 19-FOIA-00128

Dear Mr. Roberts:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your December 23, 2018, Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act (FOIA/PA) request that was sent to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Justice Management Division/Logistics Management Services, Mail Referral Unit (MRU). On January 8, 2019, the MRU forwarded your request, which was received on the same date, to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Office of the General Counsel. A copy of your request is attached for your convenience.

The records you seek require a search in another OJP office and so your request falls within "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). Because of these unusual circumstances, we are extending the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. We have not yet completed a search to determine whether there are records within the scope of your request. The time needed to process your request will necessarily depend on the complexity of our records search and on the volume and complexity of any records located. For your information, this Office assigns incoming requests to one of three tracks: simple, complex, or expedited. Each request is then handled on a first-in, first-out basis in relation to other requests in the same track. Simple requests usually receive a response in approximately one month, whereas complex requests necessarily take longer. At this time, your request has been assigned to the complex track. You may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records or agree to an alternative time frame for processing, should records be located; or you may wish to await the completion of our records search to discuss either of these options.

Your request is assigned to a member of our FOIA Staff for processing. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your

EXHIBIT-F

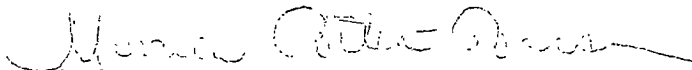


Case 1:19-cv-01306-RC Document 1-2 Filed 05/03/19 Page 9 of 12  
request, you may contact the Office of the General Counsel at (202) 307-6235, via e-mail at  
FOIAOJP@usdoj.gov, or you may write to this office at:

US DOJ. Office of Justice Programs  
Office of the General Counsel  
810 7th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20531  
Attn: FOIA

Please include the above-referenced OJP FOIA number. Lastly, you may contact our FOIA  
Public Liaison at the above telephone number to discuss any aspect of your request.

Thank you,



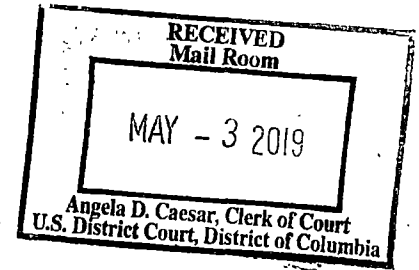
Monica Potter-Johnson  
Government Information Specialist

Attachment(s)

Vernon Roberts, #18-B-1489  
Five Points Correctional Facility  
State Route 96 / P.O. Box 119  
Rome, New York 14541

December 23, 2018

To Freedom of Information Officer,  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001



subject: Freedom of Information Request.  
Pursuant to, Title 5 U.S.C. Section  
552 et. seq.

Dear Freedom of Information Officer.

Pursuant to the above subject provisions of Federal law. I hereby request copy of the following records maintained by your various divisions and bureaus contained within your computer data base files. Consistent with the waiver of fees allowed by the Director of Budget and Management as such:

1. Copy of. Any and all computerized records. Maintained by your Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) comprehensive online toolkit covering model policies, practices, image retention for local law enforcement agency body worn camera policies; as contained on: [www.bja.gov/bwcl](http://www.bja.gov/bwcl). AS, I do not have access to the internet
2. Copy of. Any grant application and award. Submitted and approved for body worn cameras. By the City of Rochester, New York. And/or its police department.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response!!

cc:  
V.R. (Files)

Sincerely,  
Vernon Roberts

Vernon Roberts, # 18-B-1489  
Five Points Correctional Facility  
State Route 96, P.O. Box 119  
Romulus, New York 14541

February 10, 2019

TO: FOIA Public Liaison,  
Office of Justice Programs  
810 7th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20531

RE: OJP FOIA No. 19-FOIA-00128

Dear FOIA Public Liaison:

In accordance with the above reference request, I hereby make the present request. Pursuant to Title 5 U.S.C. section 552 (b) (B) (i) (ii) (iii) as such:

1. The request as contained within my request dated December 23, 2019 paragraph (1). Does not contain an ~~usual~~ Unusual request for records. As, it requested copy of electronic records maintained on your agency's website at: <http://www.bja.gov/go/bwc>. In accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. section 552 (3) (A), (B), (C).

2. To the extent of the original request contained within paragraph (2). I respectfully ask for a time period in which I can expect a disclosure. Or, a denial thereof.

Respectfully,  
Vernon Roberts

cc:  
V.R. (Files)

Vernon Roberts, #18-B-1489  
Five Points Correctional Facility  
State Route 96, P.O. Box 119  
Romulus, New York. 14541

February 12, 2019

TO: Office of General Counsel  
United States Department  
of Justice.  
Office of Justice Programs  
810 7th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20531  
Attn: FOIA

Subject: Renewal/Reconsideration of Classification  
of the below reference to FOIA request  
as: "Unusual Circumstances" under  
5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii).

RE: OJP FOIA No. 19-FOIA-00128

Dear Counsel:

I am making the above subject request upon the  
following basis, as such: -

- 1. The initial classification was arbitrary and capricious.  
As, the request was made for copy of computer  
records maintained by your agency.

The other records sought are also maintained by  
your agency. In violation of Title 5 U.S.C. 552(a)  
(2)(B)(C)(3)(A)(C), (6)(B)(i)-(iii), (F)(i). I await

Your prompt reply before seeking judicial complaint.

cc:

U.S. Office of Information Services,  
V.R. (Files)

Yours Truly,

Vernon Roberts