



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kelly A. Martinez, Sheriff

Rich Williams, Undersheriff

February 28, 2025

MaryAnne Pintar, Board Chairperson
Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board
1600 Pacific Highway, Suite 251
San Diego, CA 92101

CLERB POLICY RECOMMENDATION: 22-148

Dear Chairperson Pintar,

The San Diego County Sheriff's Office (SDSO) welcomes and supports the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board's (CLERB) independent review of complaints alleging improper actions by members of the Sheriff's Office. The San Diego County Sheriff's Office continuously strives to respond with professionalism and concern to the citizens we serve, and the CLERB process provides invaluable input to that end.

CLERB sent SDSO the following policy recommendation reference CLERB Case #22-148:

1. It is recommended the San Diego Sheriff's Department (SDSD) amend SDSD P&P Section 6.131, Body Worn Cameras, to require that deputies in plain clothes assignments, including members of task forces, are not required to wear BWC's; however, they will utilize a BWC when working or assigned to a uniformed patrol assignment or when donning an external vest.

Thank you for your recommendations regarding SDSO P&P Section 6.131. This recommendation stemmed from an incident involving SDSO personnel assigned to the San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATT). As of March 2023, SDSO terminated its participation in the San Diego Regional Auto Theft Task Force.

The current policy states, "BWC's shall be worn by uniformed personnel at all times during on duty hours in a law enforcement capacity, unless directed by a supervisor." (SDSO P&P Section 6.131). This policy applies to Task Force Officers who don an external vest and are "in uniform" while making enforcement contacts. The exception would be for Task Force Officers assigned to a federal task force where a separate agreement has been entered into with the Sheriff.

The Sheriff values the collaboration between local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement in San Diego County. This collaboration leverages each agency's strength and keeps San Diego safer. As

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part of that collaboration, in March 2024, the Sheriff's Office entered a Memorandum of Understanding (attached for reference) with the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding BWC's and Task Force Officers. The use of BWC's by Task Force Officers working with the FBI is limited to operations where an arrest is being made or during the execution of a search warrant. Under these conditions, deputies would be limited in their use of BWC.

Other incidents that might limit the use of a BWC by a deputy would include operations on other federal task forces (DEA, U.S. Marshal's Office, etc.). The Sheriff continues to work with these partners to balance the value of this technology with the nature, value, and sensitivity of these investigations and federal parameters.

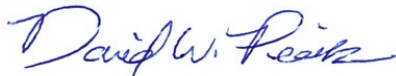
The addition of verbiage to Sheriff's Policy 6.131 outlining the use of BWC's complying with task force operation agreements is reasonable and will be added.

In closing, we appreciate the time and effort of the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of San Diego County and the policy recommendation. Our goal is to provide the highest quality public safety service to everyone in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

KELLY A. MARTINEZ, SHERIFF



David Perkins, Lieutenant
Division of Inspectional Services
KAM:DP