

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Katharine Sullivan
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 7th St. NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I am writing to you today in support of the Wilmington Police Department's proposal to be fairly considered for the FY2020 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies Grant.

The City of Wilmington Police Department's interest in the Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies would strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and communities in the state of Delaware. This grant will equip law enforcement in Wilmington, which is Delaware's largest populated city, with efficient and effective technology to increase public confidence in fair policing and practices.

The WPD has worked extensively to utilize intelligence, technology, and community engagement to swiftly improve the department's efficiency and accountability. These efforts are evident through WPD's implementation of CompStat, a performance management system used to reduce crime and achieve other police department goals emphasizing information-sharing, responsibility, accountability, improving effectiveness to reduce crime, and improving the quality of life for residents and visitors. The presence of body-worn cameras will further increase WPD's efforts to improve transparency, civility, corroborating evidence, field training opportunities and, overall greater resolution of citizens' complaints and interdepartmental issues.


The funds from this grant will be used to further the efforts of WPD to outfit each officer within the department with a body-worn camera to aid the evaluation and deployment of mutually beneficial solutions for law enforcement and the communities that they serve. The Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies grant would be vital in advancing WPD's desire to make police operations available and transparent to the public. This would help resolve questions that surround encounters between officers and the general public.

Wilmington, Delaware, is one of the most ethnically and socially diverse cities in the Mid-Atlantic region of states. Strong relationships of mutual trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve are imperative to maintaining and improving public safety and policing. The Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies provides an opportunity for the Wilmington Police Department to play an instrumental role in strengthening police and community relations, mutually beneficial to each party.

This program would undoubtedly assist the advancement of police and community relations in the city of Wilmington, as well as surrounding jurisdictions.

We appreciate your consideration of the Wilmington Police Department's application for the FY2020 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies funds, and thank you for considering investing in communities in Delaware. We ask that you contact us once a decision is rendered. If you should have any questions, I can be reached through my Director of Community Affairs, J. Francis, in my Wilmington office at 302-573- 6345. Thank you for your time and consideration of this WPD grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Coons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Coons" clearly distinguishable.

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0803

9 June 2020

The Honorable Katherine Sullivan
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 7th Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Assistant Attorney General:

I am writing in support of the Wilmington Police Department's (WPD) proposal to be fairly considered for the FY2020 Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies (BWCPIP-LEA) Grant through the U.S. Department of Justice. This grant would equip law enforcement in the City of Wilmington with efficient and effective technology to increase public confidence in fair policing.

The City of Wilmington is Delaware's largest populated city and one of the most ethnically and socially diverse cities in the Mid-Atlantic region. Strong relationships of mutual trust between law enforcement and the communities that they serve are imperative to maintaining and improving public safety and policing. The WPD has worked extensively to utilize intelligence, technology, and community engagement to swiftly improve the Department's efficiency and accountability to the public. These efforts are evident through WPD's implementation of CompStat, a performance management system that is used to reduce crime and increase information-sharing within the Department.

The BWCPIP-LEA Grant will be vital to aiding the WPD in its initiative to make police operations more transparent. The funds from this grant will be used to outfit each officer in the Department with a body-worn camera. Body-worn cameras have often aided in resolving interdepartmental issues and providing transparency in encounters between the police and the general public. This grant will ultimately assist the WPD in advancing relations between law enforcement and the community in the City of Wilmington, as well as surrounding jurisdictions.

I appreciate your consideration of the application submitted by the Wilmington Police Department. I ask that you contact me once a decision is rendered. If you should have any questions, I can be reached through my Senior Director for Projects and Economic Development, Larry Windley, at (302) 674- 3308.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tom Carper".

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator