

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Frederick Gardiner**East Point Police Department to Receive Body-Worn Cameras, Laptops, and In-Car Cameras**

EAST POINT, GA.- The East Point Police Department will soon have new cutting-edge technology to help keep themselves and the streets of East Point safer. The department will receive 70 Body-Worn Cameras, 25 In-Car Cameras, and 30 Toughbook Laptops.

“After the incidents took place in Ferguson, Missouri, former President Barack Obama developed his Task Force on 21st Century Policing in 2014 and one of the standards was for Police Departments to be transparent,” said East Point Police Chief Tommy Gardner. “Receiving this technology puts us in line with best practices of law enforcement.”

The department was awarded 68 body-worn cameras from a 2017 Body-Worn Camera Policy Implementation Program Grant through the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). The department was awarded a total project of \$106,622 to purchase the cameras. The City will purchase two additional body-worn cameras for the department to have a total of 70 body-worn cameras. As part of the award, the department was required to develop a policy on the use and implementation of body-worn cameras. Their policy was based on President Barack Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The department’s Body-Worn Camera policy is intended to enhance transparency, accountability, and be utilized for the purpose of recording potential evidence in the prosecution of criminal and traffic offenses, internal (administrative) investigations, and other situations that the department deems necessary. This policy is currently being reviewed and scored by the DOJ. The department is expecting approval of their policy later this month. The City hopes to have the cameras purchased, issued, and implemented by June of this year.

Using a single tap, officers can begin recording their interactions with citizens through their body-worn cameras. The camera operates as a smartphone app stitched into the officers’ uniform. The camera also has the ability to detect if an officer is down and non-respondent and can alert 911 dispatchers.

The City is also purchasing 25-In Car Cameras that will give officers the ability to view situations inside and outside of their dispatched vehicles using a dashboard camera. These cameras will come with an upgraded wireless connection allowing officers to run license plates and criminal background checks.

“This provides a full picture of the landscape and incident in the recording,” said Farhad Islam, East Point’s Information Technology Director. “Once its recorded, everything will be stored in the car and it can be uploaded into the cloud.” Officers will also have the option to automatically upload their recordings to the cloud through three storage device units located in the City. Islam

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says these storage units protect against wireless connection drops and are accessible to officers while they are on the road. This upgraded technology provides easier access for the court system, the District Attorney's Office, and various jurisdictions to request and receive copies of recordings from the police department through a link as opposed to burning a CD.

The East Point Police Department will also receive 30 Toughbook Laptops for their dispatch vehicles with specialized security standards. The Department hopes to receive all of their upgraded equipment within the next three to four months.

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About The City of East Point

The City of East Point is approximately 13.8 miles with a population of over 33,000. Located southwest of Atlanta, East Point is conveniently located minutes away from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. This quaint urban community's prime location, numerous retail, and great restaurants make it an attractive place for a "live-work-play-shop" environment. For more information about the City of East Point visit www.eastpointcity.org. Also like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofeastpoint/ and follow us on twitter @cityofeastpoint, snapchat @cityofeastpoint, or instagram @cityofeastpoint.

