

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

BY REPRESENTATIVES LYONS, GREEN, AND MARCELLE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office to adopt policies and procedures relative to the use, storage, and maintenance of body-worn cameras and the storage, retention, and release of audio and video data recorded by body-worn cameras, and to request that a status report on the adoption of these policies and procedures be provided to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana by January 1, 2021.

WHEREAS, in order to safeguard the public and peace officers of this state, it is vital for local peace officers and the communities they protect to have strong, collaborative relationships; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the use of body cameras by all law enforcement agencies will assist in the documentation of evidence to better serve the community which would assist in the building of a strong and collaborative relationship; and

WHEREAS, trust between law enforcement agencies and the citizens they serve is essential to the stability of communities, the integrity of the criminal justice system, and the safe and effective delivery of public safety services; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the use of body cameras by all law enforcement agencies will assist in preventing and resolving complaints brought by members of the public against peace officers, strengthening law enforcement transparency, performance, and accountability, and the documenting of evidence; and

WHEREAS, body cameras may assist law enforcement agencies in identifying and correcting problems within their agencies by using footage from the cameras to provide scenario-based training, evaluate the performance of new officers in the field, and identify new areas in which training may be needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office to adopt policies and procedures relative to the use, storage, and maintenance of body-worn cameras and the storage, retention, and release of audio and video data recorded by body-worn cameras, and does hereby further request that a status report on the adoption of these policies and procedures be provided to the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana by January 1, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana urges and requests that the policies and procedures adopted by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office include the following:

(1) Policies and procedures relative to the equipment and technical functioning of body-worn cameras, including policies and procedures on the proper use, maintenance, and storage of the body-worn camera equipment.

(2) Policies and procedures that establish guidelines and standards on the use of body-worn cameras while a deputy is engaged in the performance of his official duties and that require the camera to be in recording mode when the deputy is engaged or participating in an arrest, interagency arrests or task forces, and crowd control.

(3) Policies and procedures that establish guidelines and standards for the proper storage and retention of audio and video data recorded by body-worn cameras for purposes of law enforcement investigations, criminal litigation, and criminal proceedings as well as for purposes of release of such data pursuant to a request made under the Public Records Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES