

MINUTE ENTRY
MORGAN, J.
September 24, 2014

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff**

CIVIL ACTION

VERSUS

No. 12-1924

**CITY OF NEW ORLEANS,
Defendant**

SECTION "E"

A public hearing was held on September 24, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom C-501, United States Courthouse, 500 Poydras Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Present: Sharonda Williams, City Attorney, and Andy Kopplin, Deputy Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer of the City of New Orleans on behalf of Defendant, the City of New Orleans ("City");

Superintendent Michael Harrison, Deputy Superintendent Arlinda Westbrook, Deputy Superintendent Jay Ginsberg, Daniel Murphy, Bruce Hamilton, Alex Skaggs, Michael Pipher, and Ben Horwitz on behalf of the New Orleans Police Department ("NOPD");

Susan Hudson, Ursula Price, and Simone Levine on behalf of the Office of Independent Police Monitor ("OIPM");

Steve Parker and Jude Volek on behalf of Plaintiff, the United States of America ("United States");

Jonathan Aronie, David Douglass, Chief Dennis Nowicki, Chief Bob McNeally, Chief Mary Ann Viverette, Professor Alejandro Del Carmen, Judith Dangerfield, and Ryan Roberts, Office of the Consent Decree Monitor ("OCDM").

The parties discussed various matters related to implementation of the Consent Decree, particularly with respect to body-worn and in-car cameras.

Superintendent Harrison reported on the status and functionality of body-worn and in-car cameras. NOPD has worked diligently to develop a system that catalogues how many vehicles have functional cameras, how many vehicles have non-functional cameras (including whether a repair request has been made), and how many vehicles need cameras. Each district is responsible for reporting this information to the Mobile Video Unit, which is then aggregated in a comprehensive spreadsheet. NOPD will provide the most current spreadsheet to the Court at the next status conference. NOPD has also developed a system of accountability to ensure that all officers—as well as their supervisors—comply with NOPD camera policy. For example, supervisors are required to provide Superintendent Harrison with daily written reports regarding officer use (or non-use) of cameras.

NOPD has requested \$4 million in additional funding to improve its camera systems. NOPD plans to purchase 100 new vehicles, 50 of which will contain brand-new mobile video units. In order to accommodate this new technology, NOPD will purchase an integration software system to create 10 new servers: one for each district, one for the canine unit, and one for the special operations division.

Deputy Mayor Kopplin reported on the status of NOPD's budget request. The City Council Budget Committee will discuss the request at its next meeting.

Deputy Superintendent Ginsberg introduced the members of the Consent Decree Compliance Bureau. The Consent Decree Compliance Bureau serves as a liaison

between the United States, the City, and the Monitor to help facilitate implementation of the Consent Decree.

Jonathan Aronie introduced the members of the OCDM. Mr. Aronie summarized the findings of the Third Quarterly Report regarding camera usage, functionality, training, and policy. Mr. Aronie outlined the OCDM's future plans to continue monitoring all aspects of NOPD's camera system.

Ben Horowitz reported on the current status of camera usage and functionality. In order to encourage compliance with camera policy, NOPD will inform the department that random audits of officer camera usage are ongoing. NOPD will also redesign its officer trip sheet, which will require officers to document whether a body-worn or in-camera car was activated for all police activity.

Alex Skaggs detailed NOPD's policies on body-worn and in-car cameras. With respect to the former, officers currently undergo in-service training on a weekly basis. Officers will be required to complete follow-up training courses online. The newest recruit class will begin formal training on body-worn cameras in November of this year.

Chief Westbrook explained the disciplinary process for officers who violate NOPD's policies on camera usage. Chief Westbrook will report to the Court on the outcome of ongoing officer investigations, including whether any discipline was imposed.

David Douglas reported that the body-worn camera policy has already been approved and that the in-car camera policy will likely be approved soon. Jude Volek confirmed the in-car policy is currently under review and that approval is imminent.

Mr. Horowitz reported on various updates to NOPD's website, including the daily posting of major offensive logs.

The Court will follow up on all issues raised during the hearing.

New Orleans, Louisiana, this 23rd day of October, 2014.



SUSIE MORGAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

JS10 (2:35)