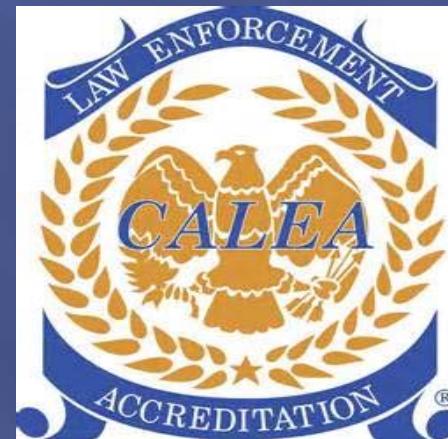
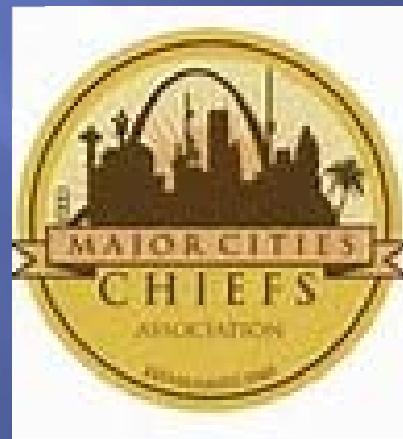


# BODY WORN CAMERA PROJECT

Virginia Beach Police Department

Public Presentation

January 2016



# Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach is the 42<sup>nd</sup> largest city in the country  
(largest city in Virginia)

451,672 population

Virginia Beach is approximately 310 sq miles with 28 miles of public beaches

Millions of people visit Virginia Beach annually

# Virginia Beach Police Department

VBPD - 806 officers

In 2014, VBPD officers were responsible for:

275,739 calls for service

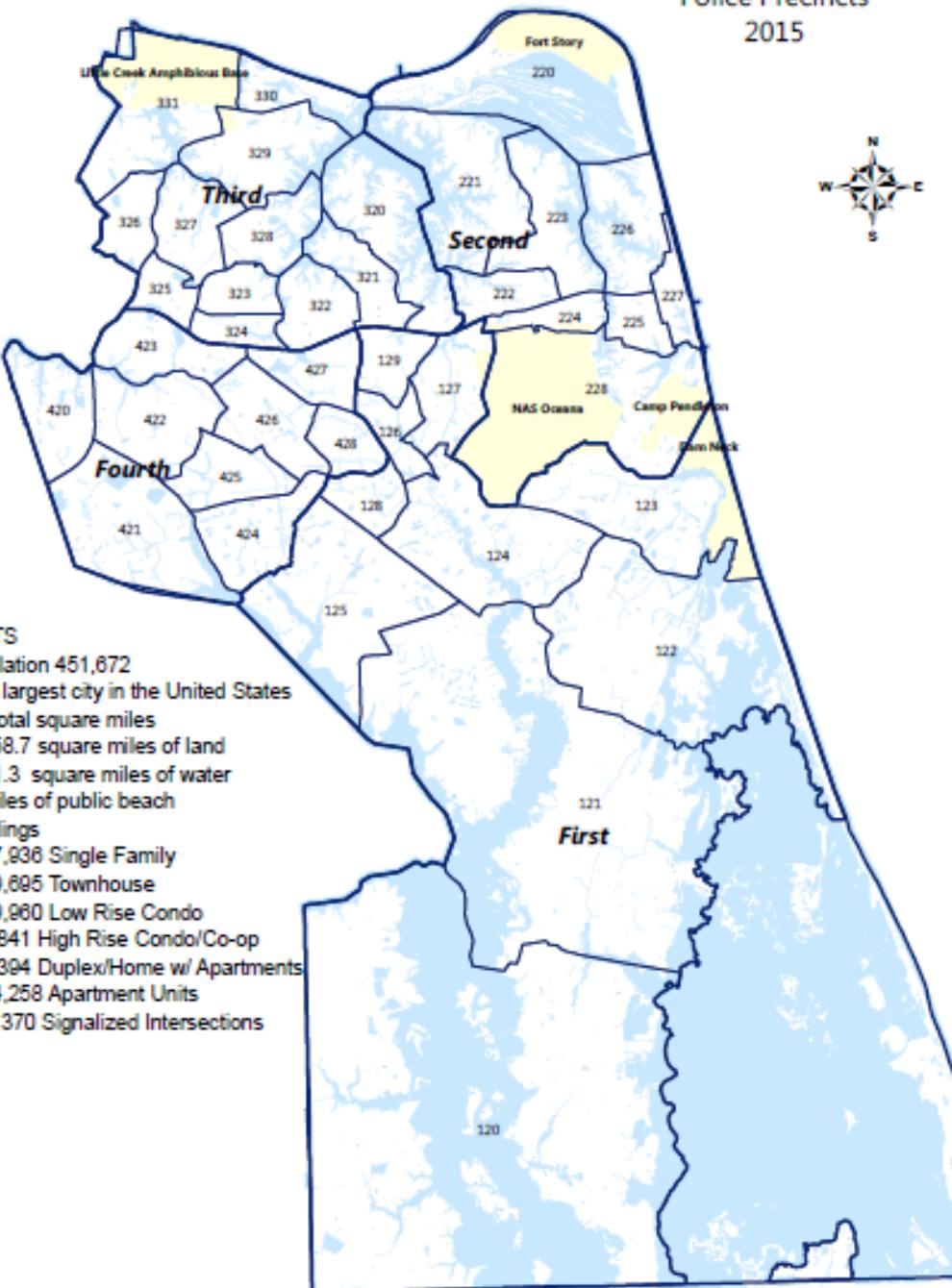
76,684 traffic stops

23,210 arrests

16,375 field contacts

This accounts for nearly 400,000 citizen contacts

Virginia Beach Police Department  
Police Precincts  
2015



## FACTS

**Population 451,672**

Population 481,072  
42nd largest city in the United States

**310 total square miles**

**258.7 square miles of land**

51.3 square miles of water

**31.5 square miles of  
28 miles of public beach**

#### Dwellings

### Dwellings

17,830 Single Family  
19,695 Townhouse

19,960 | Low Rise Con

18,860 Low Rise Condos  
2,841 High Rise Condos

2,841 High Rise Condo  
1,394 Duplex/Home w/

1,384 Duplex/Home W  
34,259 Apartment/In

34,258 Apartment Units  
Over 370 Signaled Intersections

## Over 3/0 Signaled Inte

Ergonomics in Design, Vol. 22, No. 1, March 2011, 1–10

Journal of Oral Rehabilitation 2003; 30: 103–109

10.1002/anie.201907002

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Ergonomics in Design / 11

Ergonomics in Design, Vol. 22, No. 1, March 2011, 1–10



## **Mission Statement**

The Virginia Beach Police Department is committed to providing a safe community and improving the quality of life for all people. We accomplish this by delivering quality police services and enforcing laws with equity and impartiality. In partnership with the community, we reduce crime through public education, prevention, and awareness. In meeting this objective, we demand of ourselves the highest professional standards and dedication to our core values.



## Vision

The Virginia Beach Police Department will be the premiere law enforcement agency setting the standard for excellence. Committed to those we serve, we adapt to change, while focusing on value-based principles, lifelong learning, and professional growth.

VIRGINIA BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CORE VALUES

## PRIDE

### Professionalism

In our actions, conduct, and job performance.  
Constantly striving towards ever-rising standards.

### Respect

For all our citizens, each other, and for differing points of view, regardless of age, race, gender, appearance, individual beliefs, or lifestyles.

### Integrity

Truthful & honest, deserving of trust.  
Ethical.  
Being guided by the concept of fundamental fairness in everything we do.  
Doing what is right.

### Dedication

To the organization, each other, our families, and the citizens we serve.  
Unquestionable work ethic.

### Excellence

In everything we do.  
Seeking to improve and excel, always.

# What are Body-worn cameras?

Cameras worn by the officer during an encounter with citizens

Captures audio and video in real time

Records from the officer's perspective (view)

Tool to enhance transparency and promote police accountability

Cameras have limited fields of view and record in two-dimension



# Body cameras are NOT...

The magic fix to end all violent encounters between citizens and police officers

Intended to replace the officer's testimony in court (if it wasn't recorded it didn't happen)

Meant to replace the officer's judgment after the fact (use-of-force cases)

Another means to surveil the public and collect personal data (big brother is watching)

# Why wear Body cameras?

Transparency

Accountability – good and bad

Better internal investigations

Document crime scenes and interviews

Decrease litigation costs and lawsuits

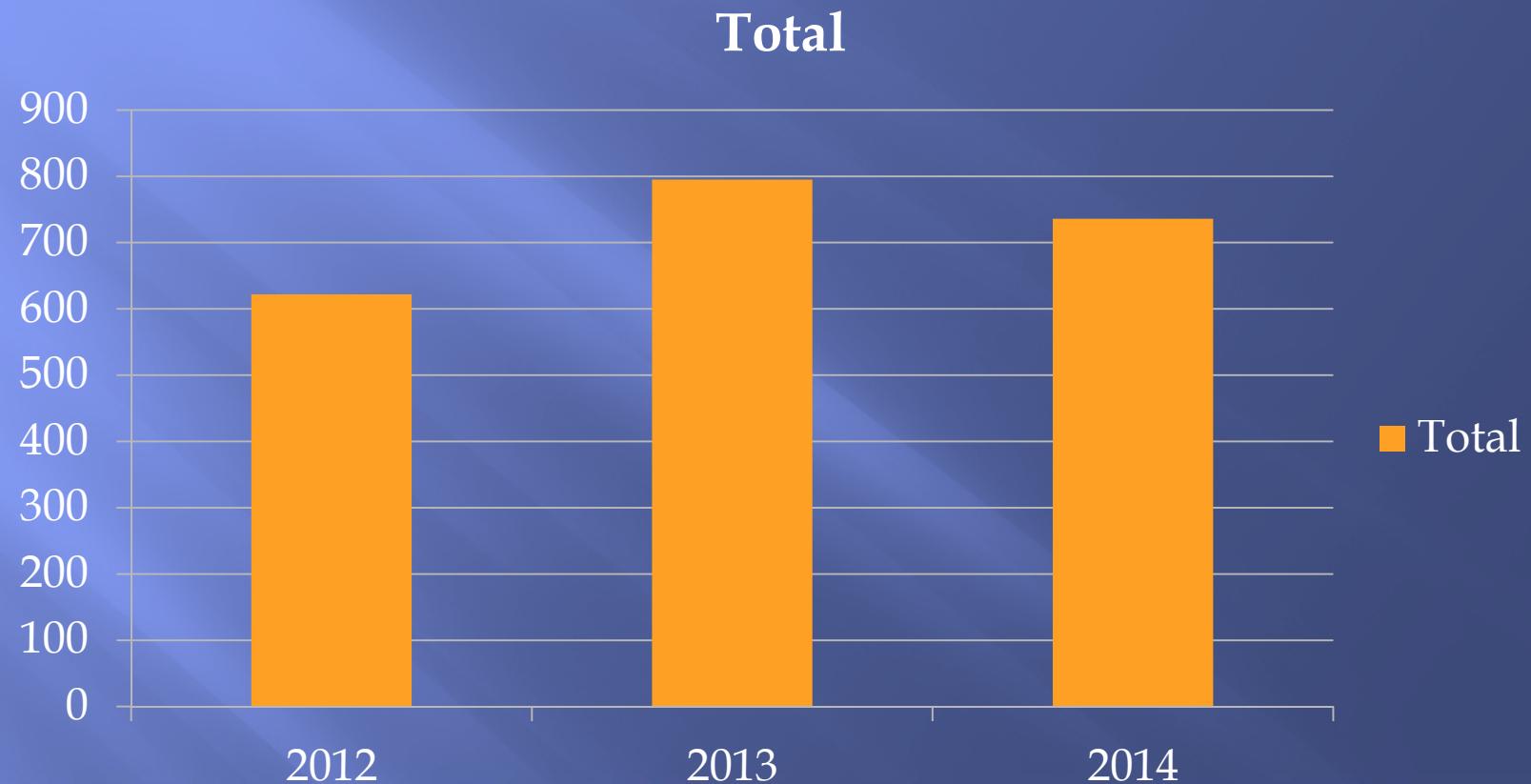
National trend

Public expectations

# VBPD – Citizen Complaints



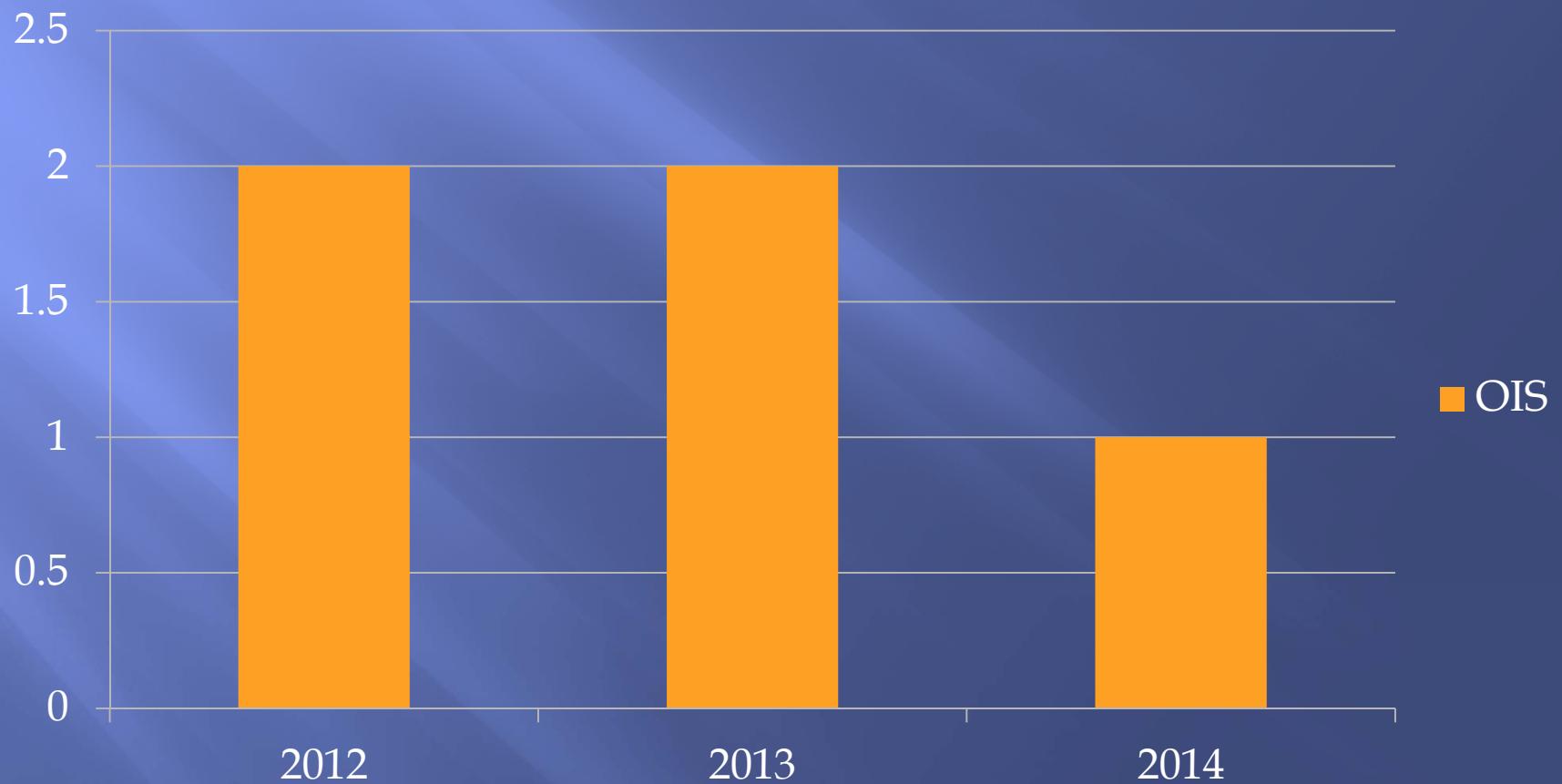
# VBPD – Use of Force Reports



2014 – Less than 0.2% of all documented contacts between police and citizens resulted in a ‘use-of-force’

# VBDP Officer Involved Shootings

## OIS



# How do they work?

Cameras are issued to officers and are worn on the uniform

The officer will activate the camera during an encounter with a citizen (policy requirement)

The encounter is recorded (audio and video) and saved for a pre-determined amount of time

Officers can review videos, but not edit them

# Recording concerns

Privacy issues

Community policing and building bridges

Juvenile suspects, witnesses and victims

Sensitive locations / cases

Can a person refuse to be recorded?

# Policy questions

When to activate the camera

Should we notify citizens they are being recorded

Should officers have discretion to turn off the camera

Who can view the footage?

Who will have edit rights?

Can officers watch the video prior to completing reports?

# FOIA

How will this impact the city? The police department?

Statistics:

- 2008: There were 624 FOIA requests
- 2014: Increased to 1601 FOIA requests
- Currently there is one police employee assigned to the FOIA office
- Our proposal will ask for 5 additional employees to administer the workload

Other agencies with body cameras have estimated that it takes 5-8 hours to research, redact and release 1 hour of body camera video

# Data Storage

This is the costliest part of the program

We anticipate that each officer will generate 90-120 minutes of digital recordings per shift

We have 3 options for storage

This will impact our IT department and other agencies that will need to see the videos such as attorneys.

# Project costs

Cost of the camera

- Cameras can cost as much as \$1,000 each

Data storage costs

- On average, data costs roughly \$100 / month / camera

Additional employees to administer the program

Equipment needs – computers, office space, etc.

# Implementation plan

We will phase in the cameras over 4 years beginning in January 2017.

Roughly 75 cameras per year until we have full implementation

Not all officers will be equipped with cameras at first. They will be assigned throughout all precincts and shifts.

We will continue to utilize dash-cameras, but not the Taser-cameras.

# We need your input

We ask that you break into groups and consider the following questions:

1. Are body cameras a wise investment?
2. If implemented, when would you recommend the cameras be activated?
3. What privacy concerns do you have if officers utilize body cameras?
4. Policy review for comments
5. Other considerations?