



# CITY OF SAN MATEO

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## Agenda Report

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Agenda Number: 23

Section Name: {{section.name}}

File ID: {{item.tracking\_number}}

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**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Drew Corbett, City Manager  
**PREPARED BY:** Police Department  
**MEETING DATE:** August 16, 2021  
**SUBJECT:**  
In-Car Video Recording System and Interview Room Equipment – Agreement

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution to use an alternative purchasing method to approve an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc., for a bundle contract for an in-car video recording system and investigations interview room equipment in the total amount of \$549,943.90 for a five-year term, and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the agreement in substantially the form presented.

**BACKGROUND:**

Recent events have led to increased pressures on police officers across the country, and increased scrutiny of officer performance. In an effort to increase transparency, the San Mateo Police Department wishes to purchase an in-car video recording system for installation on police patrol vehicles. The project is consistent with City Council priorities intended to enhance police accountability, transparency, and efficiency.

For decades, video evidence has been considered an excellent source of providing an unbiased witness to a particular event and is now expected by the public to verify the accuracy of events during police contacts. In-car video recording systems are used by many law enforcement agencies locally including the cities of San Bruno, South San Francisco, and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Implementing an in-car video recording system in San Mateo offers several operational benefits, such as enhanced officer safety, accountability and integrity; provides an added layer of protection to the community; promotes a positive image of the Department; serves as a training tool; reduces the likelihood of a confrontation by those who are aware they are being recorded; and decreases the likelihood of costly litigation.

The Police Department proposes outfitting all patrol vehicles with an Axon “Fleet 3” in-car video camera system. The technology includes two cameras per vehicle, one on the windshield and one for the back seat, resulting in multiple angles that can be synchronized to allow the viewer to have a better perspective of the totality of the event from beginning to end. The cameras provide superior image and audio quality that is integrated and immediately accessible via evidence.com, which is the evidence management system currently utilized by SMPD for video obtained from body worn cameras. In addition, the camera mounted on the front of the car includes automated license plate reader (ALPR) functionality.

The Police Department currently has a contract with Axon for video recording equipment that is used in the Police Department’s interview rooms. The system is also integrated with evidence.com, the digital evidence management platform for video captured by body worn cameras. Axon offers a ‘bundled’ service agreement to allow the Police Department to combine the in-car video recording and interview room recording equipment into one agreement that

covers all needed hardware, software, infrastructure, and training required for the duration of the term. Incorporating the existing interview room equipment agreement into a new bundled agreement with the in-car video cameras will result in cost savings of \$122,204 over the five-year term.

Staff requests approval of the purchase pursuant to SMMC 3.60.070(h)(3), which allows the Council to use any purchasing process that is in the best interest of the City. Axon is the vendor/manufacturer of the Body Worn Cameras, Conducted Energy Devices (Tasers), as well as the interview room video recording equipment currently used by the SMPD. Axon is a leader in the industry, and continuing to use their products meets the Police Department's interest in that it will not require changes in how we train, operate, or manage data and evidence. AXON products also best serve the SMPD as their products do not require the City to host the generated data and evidence; the data and evidence will be directly uploaded to cloud storage, which will be secured and maintained by AXON. Staff has been pleased with Axon's responsiveness and customer service. For these reasons, staff believes it to be in the best interest of the City to proceed with this agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

The costs for the first year of the new agreement total \$106,427.78 and there is funding included in the Police Department 2021-22 operating budget for this purpose.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

This agreement is not a project subject to CEQA, because it can be seen with certainty that it will not cause a physical change in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065.)

**NOTICE PROVIDED**

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Att 1 – Proposed Resolution

Att 2 – Agreement

**STAFF CONTACT**

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