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An Administrative Order
Office of the Mayor
City of Atlanta

2020 JUL -2 PM 4:44 Administrative Order No. 2020- 28

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DIRECTING THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TO COORDINATE WITH THE INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE TO IMMEDIATELY ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT REFORMS WHICH SHALL IMPROVE POLICE OFFICER COMPLIANCE WITH BODY WORN CAMERA STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES; AND TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED, WHICH SHALL INCREASE TRANSPARENCY, IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO BODY WORN CAMERA FOOTAGE, AND OUTLINE A CLEAR RESPONSE TIME FOR ALL REQUESTS FOR BODY WORN CAMERA FOOTAGE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE USE OF FORCE ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-17.

WHEREAS, my vision for One Atlanta centers around five Citywide goals focused on creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive City; world-class employees, infrastructure and services; an ethical, transparent, and fiscally responsible government; thriving neighborhoods, communities, and businesses; and residents who are equipped for success; and

WHEREAS, the One Atlanta vision serves as the framework for creating a more Affordable, Equitable, and Resilient city; and

WHEREAS, to achieve these goals public agencies, residents, businesses, non-profits, philanthropy, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and more must work together; and

WHEREAS, police nationwide have shot and killed nearly 1,000 people annually since 2015, including approximately 181 shootings in the state of Georgia since 2015 which is approximately 18 shootings per million people in the state of Georgia¹; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, although half of the people shot and killed by police are white, black Americans are shot at a disproportionate rate, accounting for less than 13 percent of the U.S. population, while being killed by police at more than twice the rate of white Americans²; and

¹ See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

² See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Police Department (APD) has long had a commitment as an agency to the implementation of best practices on how police practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust; and

WHEREAS, these include being one of 15 law enforcement agencies out of 18,000 in the nation to be recognized for implementing the 21st century policing methods, and receiving a model city designation for APD's efforts to implement and follow the 59 recommendations set in place by President Barack Obama's Task Force On 21st Century Policing; and

WHEREAS, additionally, APD has implemented implicit bias training, requires officers to visit the National Center for Civil and Human Rights as a part of their training; and the City support efforts to provide housing for our police officers in many of our communities in which they are serving in; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless recent incidents of persons needlessly facing injury or death at the hands of APD officer have shown that these efforts have not been enough to address the urgent need for reform within the Atlanta Police Department to rebuild the trust so desperately needed throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, in light thereof, there exists a need to examine the City of Atlanta's use of force policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with my commitment to equity in Atlanta, on June 4, 2020 I issued Administrative Order 2020-17 via which I convened an advisory council consisting of community members and partners, both existing and potential, to make recommendations for any operational or legislative changes to the City of Atlanta's use of force policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Administrative Order 2020-17 the Police Use of Force Advisory Council was asked to convene and provide initial recommendations to me within fourteen (14) days; and

WHEREAS, additionally the Use of Force Advisory Council was asked to prepare and present a more comprehensive report of recommendations, following the receipt of community input within forty-five (45) days; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020 the twenty-eight (28) member Use of Force Advisory Council was named, and on June 10, 2020 the Advisory Council convened for its initial meeting; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, the Use of Force Advisory Council worked to establish recommendations based on the following key priorities:

Law and Policy - changes to laws and policies which lead to a reduction in the number of use of force incidents, a reduction in the extent of use of force in situations, and that increase accountability concerning the use of force;

Culture and Mindset Shift – systemic change to the culture of policing to reduce the emphasis on the role of police as enforcers, and increase the emphasis on the role of

police as guardians of the public, thereby reducing the number of police/citizen encounters which would require the use of force;

Community and Partnerships - building stronger relationships between the police and the community to grow mutual respect and reducing the number of police/citizen encounters which would require the use of force; and

WHEREAS, the Use of Force Advisory Council has submitted its initial 14-day recommendations to me for consideration; and

WHEREAS, included therein were recommendations that the City of Atlanta implement policies to improve police officer compliance with body worn camera standard operating procedures, and to implement policies to increase public transparency regarding body worn camera footage; and

WHEREAS, since the time that I took office, APD body worn camera usage has increased from approximately fifty percent (50%) to ninety-four percent (94%);

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City of Atlanta invested in technology to provide for the automatic activation of body worn cameras to reduce the human element from activating body cameras; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the City of Atlanta appropriated Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) in its Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for certain technology upgrades for vehicle dashboard cameras; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with my devotion to increasing transparency though implementing policies which support the use of body worn cameras and vehicle dashboard cameras, is my desire to accept and implement these recommendations immediately; and

WHEREAS, accordingly I am hereby directing the Chief Operating Officer to coordinate with the interim Chief of Police to immediately adopt and implement reforms which shall improve police officer compliance with body worn camera standard operating procedures; and

WHEREAS, specifically, these reforms must increase compliance with body worn cameras from the current 94%, and must include an evaluation of potential amendments to Atlanta Police Department standard operating procedures concerning the verbal documentation of the justification for an unauthored deactivation of the body worn camera in real time, and the written documentation thereafter; and

WHEREAS, additionally I am hereby directing the Chief Operating Officer to coordinate with the interim Chief of Police to implement measures with all deliberate speed to increase transparency and improve public access to body worn camera footage and outline a clear response time for all requests for body worn camera footage.

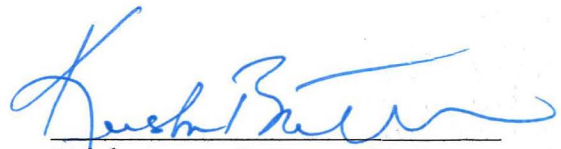
NOW, THEREFORE, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, pursuant to Section 3-104 of the City of Atlanta Charter and Section 2-182(4) of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, it is hereby ordered that:

SECTION 1: The Chief Operating Officer shall coordinate with the interim Chief of Police to immediately adopt and implement reforms which shall improve police officer compliance with body worn camera standard operating procedures.

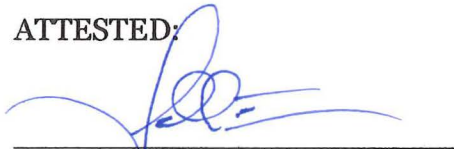
SECTION 2: Specifically, these reforms must increase compliance with body worn cameras from the current 94%, must include an evaluation of potential amendments to Atlanta Police Department standard operating procedures, requiring the verbal documentation of the justification for an unauthored deactivation of the audio or video of the body worn camera in real time, and the written documentation thereafter; and providing for the imposition of disciplinary action for a failure to comply with these procedures.

SECTION 3: The Chief Operating Officer shall coordinate with the interim Chief of Police to implement measures with all deliberate speed, which shall increase transparency, improve public access to body worn camera footage, and outline a clear response time for all requests for body worn camera footage.

SO ORDERED this 25th day of June 2020.



Keisha Lance Bottoms, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Municipal Clerk
Foris Webb, III
Municipal Clerk