



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SHERIFF JOHN W. MINA

Mr. Allie Braswell Jr.
Chair

December 10, 2020

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Mr. Russell Kilgore

Mr. Scott Boyd

Ms. Patricia Rumph

Ms. G. Denise Lewis

Ms. Tasha Golis

TO: Sheriff John W. Mina

FROM: Citizens Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Release of Body Worn Camera Recommendations

Dear Sheriff Mina:

On August 27, you charged your Citizens Advisory Committee with reviewing the Orange County Sheriff's Office's (OCSO) policies and procedures as it relates to the release of agency owned video resulting from deputy involved shootings. You directed the committee to submit recommendations based on the review of in-depth research on current operations, policies, and training in order to ensure OCSO was presently following best practices within the law enforcement community.

In an abundance of caution, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, social distancing guidelines were followed and the decision was made to conduct the meetings virtually via the Zoom webinar platform. During the review process, the committee participated in multiple question and answer sessions in which the Training Section, Captain Todd Gardiner, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement SAC Lee Massey and Supervisor Andrew Watts participated and provided invaluable insight and clarification on both the Mobile Videos and Deputy Involved shooting investigations.

Orange County citizens were afforded the opportunity to provide their thoughts and opinions. These were submitted via email and read into the record in accordance with Florida Sunshine laws during the Public Comment portion of the meetings agenda. All meeting dates were announced via the OCSO website and various social media platforms.

During this process, multiple policies and procedures were discussed and analyzed to include:

- OCSO General Orders and Legal Bulletins
- FDLE presentation on Deputy Involved Shootings
- Professional Standards Administrative Investigation
- Accreditation Standards (CALEA and CFA)
- Florida Statute 943.1718

After a thorough review and many hours of independent study, the Sheriff's Citizens Advisory Committee voted to recommend the following:

Recommendation number 1:

Provide language that the Sheriff, in partnership with FDLE, shall release agency owned video (BWC, DashCam, etc) footage as soon as reasonably possible, but no longer than 30 days after the incident.

- a. This will allow FDLE ample time to conduct interviews of all witnesses and involved persons and not impact an ongoing FDLE investigation.
- b. The Sheriff may release the video earlier and will weigh community concerns, investigative concerns and potential for Civil Unrest, in making the determination to release the video.
- c. If FDLE requests the Sheriff to not release the video, the Sheriff shall weigh FDLE's request versus the needs of the community to determine if the video should be withheld.
- d. If the video is withheld over the 30 days, the agency will inform the public of the reasoning behind withholding the video (e.g. FDLE still needs time for interviews, sensitivity)


Recommendation number 2:

The involved subject or his or her immediate family shall be contacted, if possible, and have the opportunity to view the video prior to the release of the video to the public.

Recommendation number 3:

If multiple agencies are involved, OCSO will only release its video, not another agency's videos. Coordination between all involved agencies will occur prior to the release of the video to attempt to get all agencies involved to release their videos at the same time.

Respectfully Submitted,



Allie Braswell Jr., Chair
OCSO Citizens Advisory Committee