

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: 2020-325

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Member Dennis

Date of Introduction: June 9, 2020

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, R

Date of Analysis: June 10, 2020

Type of Action: Resolution regarding public safety concerns

Bill Summary: This bill is a resolution urging the Sheriff and the State Attorney to work cooperatively, and with public input, to review and improve officer body camera video release policies. The bill also requests that the body camera policies be posted on the Sheriff's and State Attorney's Office websites for public access. The resolution encourages the public release of these videos, to the extent permissible by law, to allow for the utmost transparency to the public when all investigations have been concluded and the video is deemed a public record.

Background Information: Recent national events of police misconduct have renewed calls from the public for release of body camera video of police shootings in Jacksonville. JSO implemented a body camera program in 2018, but the public seem uncertain as to the process for camera footage to be released. City Council realizes that, to protect the integrity of the investigation, such footage should not be released until after the conclusion of all relevant investigative measures by JSO and the State Attorney's Office. The purpose of this legislation is to promote public trust and transparency in cases where police violence or misconduct is alleged.

Policy Impact Area: Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Body Camera Policy

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey