

The Berlin Police Department is proud to announce the implementation of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) for its officers. Chief Michael DeLorenzo envisioned our officers wearing body cameras and the initial research into the implementation of body cameras commenced in April 2015. After a grant from the State of New Jersey (through the Camden County Prosecutors Office) became available, we tested and evaluated several BWC's from multiple manufacturers. The Berlin Police Department has selected and will fully deploy WatchGuard Vista HD Body Worn Cameras to all of its officers by August 15, 2016.

We believe that the use of these cameras will significantly benefit both the community and our officers. Body Worn Cameras are certainly a powerful tool that can assist police and at the same time give the community a better understanding of what happened during an incident. However, as with any technology, it is not infallible. Often times a police officer has to assess what he/she has seen and experienced in a split second, often under duress and with his/her life potentially in jeopardy. Conversely, after the fact reviewing of BWC footage presents the luxury of viewing the video under calm and comfortable conditions with the ability to infinitely replay the video recording, scrutinizing it for hard-to-see detail, slow it down, freeze it and take minutes or hours to decide what an officer only had seconds or fractions of a second to process and decide.

The Berlin Police Department prides itself on transparency and openness to the public. To increase transparency and officer accountability, supervisors will be reviewing the videos captured by the BWC's and assess how officers interact with citizens. BWC's will also allow the Berlin Police Department to document an incident more accurately by reviewing the recording of the incident rather than relying solely on memory recall. Also, since events will be captured on both video and audio, officers will be able to more accurately present their case in court. Additionally, the video review will allow supervisors to tailor training programs to improve how those officers work in the field. We believe the community and officers of this department will benefit from the use of BWC's and wholeheartedly feel that it is a win-win for all involved



Body Worn Camera (BWC)
shirt pocket worn option on a
uniformed officer



WatchGuard
Vista Body Camera



Body worn camera (BWC)
belt worn option on a
uniformed officer