

Personal Video Recording Device

423.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

With the approval of the Watch Commander the San Luis Obispo Police Department will allow personnel to use a Personal Video Recording Device. This device is designed to assist employees in the performance of their duties. This device is used to record certain activities by providing a visual and/or audio record. Video recordings are intended to provide an unbiased visual/audio record of the incident and to supplement the officer's report.

423.1.1 REQUIRED ACTIVATION OF PERSONAL VIDEO RECORDING DEVICE

This policy is not designed to describe every possible situation where the system may be used however there are many situations where the use of the Personal Video Recorder is appropriate. In addition officers may activate the system any time he/she believes its use would be appropriate and/or valuable to document an incident. In some circumstances it is not possible to capture images of the incident due to conditions or location of the camera. However, the audio portion can be valuable evidence and is subject to the same activation requirements.

a. All field contacts involving actual or potential criminal conduct, which includes:

1. Suspicious vehicles
2. Arrests
3. DUI investigations

b. Any other contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact in a situation that would otherwise require recording.

c. Any other circumstances where the officer believes that a recording of an incident would be appropriate

423.1.2 REVIEW OF RECORDINGS

Recordings may be reviewed in any of the following situations:

- (a) By a supervisor investigating an allegation of officer misconduct.
- (b) By a department supervisor (after approval of the Chief of Police) who is participating in an official investigation, such as a personnel complaint, administrative inquiry or a criminal investigation.
- (c) By a supervisor with the consent of the officers in the recording.
- (d) By department personnel who request to review their own recordings.
- (e) By court personnel through proper process or with permission of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
- (f) By media personnel with permission of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

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Recordings may be shown for the purposes of training value. If an involved officer objects to the showing of recording, his/her objection will be submitted to the Chief of Police to determine if the training value outweighs the officer's objection for not showing the recording.

Employees desiring to view their own recording can access and view the recording from any designated department computer.

In no event shall any recording be used or shown for the purpose of ridicule or embarrassing any employee.

423.1.3 DOCUMENTING USE

Any incident that was recorded with either the video or audio system shall be documented in the officer's report. If a citation was issued, a notation shall be placed on the back of the records copy of the citation that the incident was recorded.

423.1.4 COPIES OF VIDEO RECORDING

Original video recording media shall not be used for any purpose other than for initial review by a supervisor. A copy of the original video recording will be made upon proper request for any person authorized in Policy Manual § 446.4.

Original video recording media may only be released in response to a valid court order or upon approval by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.