

From:
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Subject:

Quote from Chaney Adams, Haley spokesman: "In response to officer involved incidents across the country and legislation before the General Assembly, Governor Haley and Director Leroy Smith worked together, beginning late last year, on launching a pilot project in South Carolina that would equip law enforcement officials with body cameras to evaluate those compared to dash cameras, which the department has used for years."

ON BACKGROUND:

Why did we decide to begin using/testing body-worn cameras?

In light of recent high-profile incidents and proposed legislation with regard to body-worn cameras, DPS wanted to ensure that we were in line with the latest technology to capture vital information, which enhances officer safety, helps us collect and document evidence and assists with training and officer evaluation. Further, we wanted to test and evaluate the body camera compared with the in-car video camera, which we have been using for over two decades in our law enforcement vehicles. Our Bureau of Protective Services officers, which primarily patrol the Capital Complex and other state facilities on foot, began using body cameras February 25, 2015, to capture their interactions with the public.

Number of body cameras?

-- 58 total body cameras; 50 will be tested by the Highway Patrol and State Transport Police; 25 cameras will be deployed for testing around the state this Friday and 25 next Friday

-- BPS began using eight body-worn cameras on February 25, 2015. So far, that has worked well for their particular law enforcement needs.

How much money are the cameras costing?

-- 50 body cameras were \$37,530 @ \$750.60 each. The money came from the DPS operating budget.

-- The eight BPS body cameras were funded through a federal grant.

-- The cost of the cameras does not include the storage for the data. That is something we would determine during the testing and evaluation phase.