

**\*\* REVISED \*\***

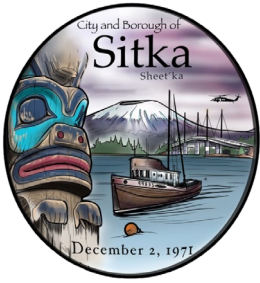
**Step 1**

**Discussion**

**Step 2**

**Possible Motion**

**I MOVE TO** direct the Municipal Administrator to complete a study into the use of body cameras in the Sitka Police Department and have the study reviewed by the Police and Fire Commission.



# City and Borough of Sitka

PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

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*A Coast Guard City*

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

**From:** Assembly Members Rebecca Himschoot and Kevin Mosher

**Date:** January 3, 2022

**Subject:** Police and Fire Commission Study and Recommendations on Police Body Cameras

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### **Background**

In order to ensure the best possible service to the community, the Police and Fire Commission will be asked to explore the use of body cameras by Sitka Police Department Officers.

### **Analysis**

Following a meeting with Chief Baty in July, it was clear body cameras are a decision to be made locally. According to a report in the Anchorage Daily News 80% of large police departments nationally use body cameras, and by 2016 nearly half of all police departments nationally were using body cameras. They have been used in Wrangell, Skagway, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Haines, and Juneau, among many other Alaska communities. However, each community sets their policies for use of the cameras and the data they store.

### **Fiscal Note**

As part of the analysis of body cameras the Police and Fire Commission should consider grant funding sources, the costs of data curation and storage and the community benefits of these expenses.

### **Recommendation**

The Assembly should request the Police and Fire Commission to research and make recommendations about body cameras for Sitka's Police Department.