



Kitsap County Sheriff's Office Body Worn Camera and In-Car Camera program to launch in 2023.

At the direction of the Sheriff's Executive Team, the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office began officially exploring a Body Worn Camera and In-Car camera program in December 2021, and a workgroup was established.

Throughout 2022 the workgroup identified the major vendors, attended vendor demos, did agency site visits, identified the associated costs for implementation, and worked through many of the complicated facets of implementation, including hiring staff to manage the program, managing public records requests, records redaction, interoperability with current county systems and with our partner agencies, and storage of the data.

In August 2022 a vendor was selected to provide both Body Worn Cameras and In-Car Cameras for all of KCSO.

Kitsap County is currently in the final stages prior to implementation, negotiating the "impacts" of a Body Worn Camera and In-Car Camera program with the affected unions, as per state law, and funding a budget for the program with the Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners. We are hopeful that this will be accomplished soon.

While the Sheriff's Office had hoped to launch this project by January 1, 2023, implementation is likely delayed until later in the first quarter of 2023.

On October 31, 2022, KCSO learned about a grant opportunity through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. The purpose of the grant program is to assist law enforcement agencies to establish and expand body-worn camera programs. Kitsap County is currently researching this grant opportunity.

While any grant award from WASPC would represent less than 1% of the total cost of our program, every dollar helps!

The Sheriff's Office is excited to launch this long-anticipated program and is thankful to the members of the workgroup that spent countless hours evaluating every aspect of a body-worn and in-car camera program, attending vendor demos, attending law enforcement agency site visits to see the products in use, and for selecting our vendor.

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