



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **443-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: October 20, 2016

SUBJECT: **BODY WORN CAMERAS (BWC) – PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

The purpose of this LTC (Letter to Commission) is to provide an update regarding the deployment of BWC in the City's parking enforcement unit.

The City's Police Department provided training to each employee outfitted with a BWC during the months of December 2015 and January 2016. As of February 1, 2016, all parking enforcement specialists (PES) and parking operations supervisors within the Parking Department's enforcement unit has been actively using BWCs. Additionally, standard operating procedures (SOP) were developed for parking enforcement utilizing the Police Department's SOP as a template with amendments to suit parking enforcement.

PESs are required to activate their BWC under a variety of circumstances. Most notable are during any interactions with customers; towing a vehicle, and enforcement of valet parking violations, to name a few.

The deployment of BWC has proven to be an immeasurable tool in deciphering legitimate customer issues/complaint versus anecdotal accounts of circumstances and/or exchanges with parking enforcement personnel. Many allegations are quickly debunked once footage as well as audio is viewed. Most notable is the recent piece on WSVN's Help me Howard (HMH). As you may recall, a vehicle was towed because it was parked at a posted valet parking passenger loading area. The customer alleged to HMH that there was no sign posted at the time when they parked their car and the signs were only placed after their vehicle was towed.

With the assistance of BWC, video footage (and audio) confirmed the following:

- Time and date stamp of when signs were posted (prior to the vehicle in question being parked); and
- Inventory of vehicles parked prior to posting (vehicles parked prior to posting are not be cited/towed)

This was a text book example of how a BWC should be used by parking enforcement personnel. In fact, Howard Finkelstein stated the following, *"If this was a permanent sign, the city could just show a picture to prove that you parked there. But because it's a smaller portable sign, the city not only has to prove you parked there. They should also have evidence that the gorilla sign was there before you parked, because if it was put there after you parked, you get your money back."* We then called Miami Beach, and give them credit: *They had everything documented on video".*

October 20, 2016  
Letter to Commission  
Body Worn Cameras (BWC) – Parking Enforcement  
Page 2

If you should have any questions, please contact Saul Frances, Parking Director via email or at extension 6483.

c: Kathie Brooks, Assistant City Manager  
Mark Taxis, Assistant City Manager  
Susanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager  
Cintya Ramos, Budget Director  
Eric Carpenter, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director  
Daniel Oates, Chief of Police  
Marcia Monserrat, Chief of Staff/Office of the City Manager  
Saul Frances, Parking Director

JLM/KGB/SF   
f:\ping\sa\l\cmo\BodyWornCameras(BWC)ParkingEnforcement10202016.ltc.doc