Manteno Police Department

Body Camera Report

2022

The Manteno Police Department is made up of 20 sworn personnel. In addition to the chief of Police we have one Lieutenant, three shift Sergeants, One Detective Sergeant and one detective who just was promoted this this position in November of 2022. The previous detective was promoted to Sergeant and is now assigned as the shift supervisor for the Midnight Shift. This Sergeant is also assigned to the FBI task force. We also have two investigators who are assigned to the Tri-County Auto Theft Task Force. One agent is assigned to the Joliet office and another to the Kankakee County office. We also have a School resource Officer, 10 patrol officers, and one Aux officer. The Manteno Police Department has a total of 15 cameras. The Manteno Police Department has Getac body cameras and currently has 8 in car Getac systems as well that link up to the body worn cameras. These systems utilize cloud based storage.

These cameras have turned out to be very useful in accurately depicting calls for service and obtaining evidence. The cameras have also been utilized on a regular basis for obtaining interviews by members of the investigation’s division. Over the past year, our department has gone through a lot of personnel changes and has hired two new officers. The body cameras have also proven useful for training purposes for the review of incidents (debriefing)

The Manteno Police Department has still been experiencing some difficulties and hurdles that need to be overcome. Some of the older veteran officers are still not very familiar with how to correctly label videos and sync to the in-car system and this makes it more difficult for investigators to locate videos needed to put together cases. Some officers grab a camera out of the dock station and forget to assign themselves to it. Sometimes a different officer will be listed that who actually was using the camera. Officers are also not correctly categorizing videos and investigators are having to go back in and change the categories and retention periods. These issues will be addressed through training that needs to be set up.

The Manteno Police Department also continues to experience batteries not lasting very long and some cameras going dead, especially the older cameras. Now that we have a total of 15 cameras this doesn’t occur as much. In the past officers would place their camera in the in-car charger during their shift to help it stay charged; however, sometimes they would then jump out of the car and forget to grab the camera and an incident was potentially missed. To help with this issue, the department obtained breakaway chargers that hook up to the camera while it is still being worn by the officer. If the officer must jump out quickly, the cable detaches.

We also sometimes have issues with dead batteries when several officers are working village festivals or details for long periods. During our annual Oktoberfest celebration all our officers are assigned to work and most of them are on foot patrolling the fest grounds. There is no way to charge the cameras and officers have to exchange for one that has been sitting on the charger; however with the limited number of cameras they are almost all in use. We are in the process of trying to order each officer on the department their own individual camera and charging station. The department is also looking into newer camera models with longer battery lives.

Toward the end of the year, we started experiencing an issue with the camera dock station not reading the cameras so videos are not uploaded in a timely manner. Sometimes we have to reseat a camera until the dock reads it. Other times we have to shut down the camera and restart it. This seems to be occurring with some of the older cameras so upgrading may assist with this issue. If not we may have to look at an additional dock station.

Another issue we have had is the fact that the Manteno School District doesn’t feel comfortable with our school resource officer utilizing a body camera while functioning with in the school setting. The school is now on board and our SRO has been wearing a camera on a daily basis. The SRO has a charging dock at the school however has to come up to the Station in order to upload videos and sometimes forgets to do so and then the video footage is not available until he comes back to work.

The Manteno Police Department shift supervisors, administrators, and investigators currently review body camera footage as needed for the creation of case files for video evidence obtained. Supervisors are also authorized to review relevant recordings any time they are investigating alleged misconduct or reports of meritorious conduct or whenever such recordings would be beneficial in reviewing an officer’s performance. During the 2022 year we didn’t have any formal complaints filed against any of our officers.

The Manteno Police Department continues to use body cameras during investigations and arrests and copies of the videos have been sent to the States Attorney’s Office; however, have not gotten notification if the videos have been used in court for prosecution.

This report has been completed by Lieutenant Brian J. Lockwood of the Manteno Police Department. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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