

Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Application for the  
“2017 Charleston/Kanawha County Documentation Project”

Grantees: City of Charleston and Kanawha County Sheriff’s Department

Please send comments to [druggrant@cityofcharleston.org](mailto:druggrant@cityofcharleston.org)

Project Goals and Objectives:

1. Purchase in-car and body worn cameras for Charleston Police officers
  - 1a. Provide audio/video equipment to officers to document interactions with citizens
  - 2a. Increase public trust in law enforcement
  - 3a. Increase transparency with citizens in police incidents
  
2. Purchase investigative tools for Kanawha County Sheriff’s Department officers
  - 1b. Increase investigative abilities for officers
  - 2b. Increase documentation capabilities
  - 3b. Improve evidence processing and storage

**Statement of the Problem**

Community policing has become a way of life for police agencies to work with and get to know the people they have sworn to protect and serve. Working with citizens in a collaborative manner creates a cohesive effort to have a safe and crime-free place to live and work. According to DOJ’s Community Oriented Policing Services, “Community policing emphasizes proactive problem solving in a systematic and routine fashion. Rather than responding to crime only after it occurs, community policing encourages agencies to proactively develop solutions to the immediate underlying conditions contributing to public safety problems.”

The Charleston Police Department and Kanawha County Sheriff’s Department have focused for many years on building strong relationships with community leaders and citizens. These relationships help build trust that will only enhance the officers’ ability to provide good police services to all areas of the county. Getting ahead of problems by forming partnerships with different groups has not only created the opportunities for more citizen involvement in police sponsored events and activities, but also allows the citizens get to know the officers on a personal level. Building those relationships requires honesty and transparency on both sides by being able to come together and get input to help come to a reasonable conclusion for any problem or situation.

The funds awarded to the City of Charleston Police Department will be utilized to purchase in-car and body worn cameras for assignment to their Patrol Division line cars. The officers having the capabilities to video and audio tape their encounters have many benefits including officer safety, agency liability, training, criminal prosecution, citizen demeanor and community perception. These information gained from the videos can be utilized to exonerate or prosecute a suspect, train new police officers coming onboard on officer safety techniques and protect a police agency from liability.

The Kanawha County Sheriff's Department will utilize their funds to purchase crime scene supplies that will be stored in the Patrol officers' and evidence technicians' cruisers. These supplies will include digital cameras with SD cards, digital voice recorders, portable hard drives and thumb drives and crime scene supplies such as robber gloves, gunshot residue (GSR) kits, drug test kits, batteries and bodily fluid testing kits. These items will allow them to more effectively investigate crimes and provide evidentiary support to assist in the full resolution of criminal cases through the court system.

### **Project Design and Implementation**

The City of Charleston Police Department recognized the benefits of moving towards a community oriented policing strategy during the 1990's and has been building strong relationships with the community ever since. Sitting down with people from different sectors of the City, getting ideas and input from people that have a different focus than you do creates an atmosphere of sharing and broadening the knowledge base about living and working successfully in Charleston.

Police participation with Neighborhood Watch groups, safety talks at churches and schools, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student visits to Charleston's Safety City and Prevention Resource Officers (PROs) at our local schools have been staples of the Charleston Police Department's contribution to the community through non-enforcement methods. When incidents like those that happened in Ferguson, Missouri continued to occur, it put police behavior and relationships even more in the forefront. Building on existing collaborations, the Charleston Police Department created new opportunities to work with people that were willing to help us avoid violent and devastating situations like Ferguson. Working with groups like CARE (Call to Action for Racial Equality), RESET (police/clergy partnership), West Side 360 and the Charleston Main Streets Association show a united front when addressing issues in and around Charleston.

The City of Charleston will utilize these grant award funds to further the work currently being done under other federal and locally funded projects. In 2012, the City was awarded funds under the BCJI program to fund a drug market intervention initiative on the high-crime west side of Charleston. This project has morphed into a program entitled West Side 360 that will continue the efforts that were started to get business owners, organizations and citizens together to work towards eradicating the drug market and its related crimes and create a safer community.

## **Capabilities and Competencies**

The City of Charleston has received over \$3.5 million in federal and state law enforcement grant funds over the last 12 years for projects ranging from our drug market intervention initiative, salary reimbursements for our Prevention Resource Officers stationed in three area schools, VOCA Crime Victims Assistant and members of our Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team. Our police department is actively involved with the Defending Childhood Initiative Handle with Care project, LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), Citizen's Police Academy and the Youth Leadership Academy.

Creating opportunities for our police officers to work with members of the community, schools, churches, civic organizations show the dedication that the City of Charleston and its police department have to creating a safer community. These collaborative efforts will continue for years-to-come as they have shown the success in getting neighborhoods involved to lower crime rates, getting services to people who need them and simply improve living in the greater Charleston area.

Budget Narrative

**Kanawha County award \$31,517.00**

**Charleston City award \$104,340.00**

- A. Personnel N/A
- B. Fringe Benefits N/A
- C. Travel N/A
  
- D. Equipment **\$104,340.00**

**Charleston Police Department –**

**Years One and Two -**

- 1. In-Car and Body Worn Camera Bundles  
16 X \$6,521.25 = \$104,340.00

The Charleston Police Department needs to replace some of the current in-car camera systems now being utilized due to their age, outdated technology and downtime from having to be sent back to the company for repairs. In 2016, the department purchased 60 body worn cameras with BJA funds. Those cameras' data has to be downloaded via a docking station at the police station's booking office to the storage servers. The new body worn cameras available in the bundles are designed to work cohesively with the in-car cameras installed in each of the cruisers so that they video/audio downloads through the cruiser's wireless internet. This allows the cameras' data to be downloaded more quickly and efficiently, meaning more time on the road for the officer instead of at the station waiting for the camera to be downloaded.

These cameras will be installed/assigned in the patrol cruisers for use during their normal patrol shifts to video document interactions with the public.

**E. Supplies** **\$31,517.00**

**Kanawha County Sheriff's Department –  
Years One, Two and Three as needed –**

2. Digital recorders 15 X \$160.50 = \$4,012.50

These recorders will be utilized to record witness statements and case notes on-scene so they can be maintained as evidence for case prosecution

3. Crime Scene Supplies 1 X \$17,304.50 = \$17,304.50

These crime scene supplies will include testing kits for blood, semen, gunshot residue (GSR), suspected drugs and fluids, rubber gloves, evidence bags, masks, latent print chemicals and fingerprint supplies. They will be stored and accessible in the evidence technicians' and officer vehicles to be used at crime scenes to gather and store evidence.

4. Digital cameras with SD cards and cases 15 X \$480.00 = \$7,200.00

These cameras will be issued to the officers to use at crime scenes to document potential evidence for investigations.

5. Portable hard drives 20 X \$125.00 = \$2,500.00  
Thumb drives 20 X \$25.00 = \$500.00

These items will make documents and information more portable to enable sharing by officers and provide additional storage for electronic documentations for investigations.

- F. Construction N/A  
G. Consultants/Contracts N/A  
H. Other Costs N/A  
I. Indirect Costs N/A