



# San Diego County Sheriff's Department

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Kelly A. Martinez  
Undersheriff

*Anthony C. Ray, Sheriff*

May 20, 2022

Susan N. Youngflesh, Board Chairperson  
Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board  
555 West Beech Street, Suite 505  
San Diego, CA 92101-3819

## **CLERB POLICY RECOMMENDATION: CLERB CASE #21-078**

Dear Chairperson Youngflesh,

The Sheriff's Department welcomes and supports the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board's (CLERB) independent review of complaints alleging improper actions by members of this organization and in-custody deaths. We continuously strive to respond with professionalism and concern to the citizens we serve and the CLERB process provides invaluable input to that end.

On April 12, 2022, CLERB recommended the following policy change related to San Diego County Sheriff's Department Detention's Policy and Procedure.

1. It is recommended that the San Diego Sheriff's Department (SDSD) change SDSD P&P Section 6.131 titled "Body Worn Camera," to direct that deputies *shall* begin recording prior to initiating any law enforcement related contact.

After review of the recommendation, the San Diego County Sheriff's Department has updated the SDSD P&P 6.131 as of June 06, 2021, which it states in part:

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **Law Enforcement Related Contacts**

When responding to a call for service, a deputy/CSO shall activate their BWC in record mode prior to arriving on scene or upon arrival and prior to exiting their patrol vehicle. The record mode of the camera should be activated prior to actual contact with a citizen (victim/witness/suspect), or as soon as safely possible, and continue recording until the contact is completed.

There can be instances that occur where the deputy pressed the record and the record function was not fully functional at the time, the deputy's reaction time was delayed in pressing record, and/or the

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situation could not be foreseen. A deputy cannot predict all potential contacts and have appropriate reaction time in all circumstances. While the policy states deputies shall begin recording prior to arriving to an incident if the call has the potential to involve immediate enforcement action upon arrival, officer safety is an important factor as well. We believe this policy gives clear direction to deputies on their duties when and how to use their issued BWC.

In closing, we appreciate the time and effort of the Citizens' Law Enforcement Review Board. We would like to thank you for your service to the Citizens of San Diego County and the policy recommendations. It is our goal to provide the "Highest quality public safety services" to everyone in San Diego County.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY C. RAY, SHERIFF



Edward A. Greenawald, Lieutenant  
Office of the Sheriff  
Division of Inspectional Services  
ACR:EAG/kb