



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 607

By Council Members Williams, Gibson, Greenfield, Cumbo, Lancman, Cabrera, Rodriguez, Reynoso, Rosenthal and the Public Advocate (Ms. James)

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the creation of a police officer body-worn camera task force.

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. The administrative code of the city of New York is amended to add a new section 10-172 to read as follows:

§10-172. Police officer body-worn camera task force.

a. There is hereby established a Police Officer Body-Worn Camera Task Force, which shall consist of ten members as follows:

(i) Three members shall be appointed by the mayor, provided that: (1) one member shall be an employee of the New York city police department with knowledge of the department's patrol services bureau; and (2) one member shall be an employee of the New York city police department with knowledge of the department's office of information technology;

(ii) Three members shall be appointed by the speaker of the council, provided that one member shall be a person familiar with the work of the council's public safety committee; and

(iii) Four members shall appointed jointly by the speaker of the council and the mayor.

b. Membership on the task force shall not constitute the holding of a public office, and members of the task force shall not be required to take and file oaths of office before serving on the task force. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

c. The task force shall meet at least four times per year. At its first meeting, the task force shall select a chairperson from among its members by majority vote of the task force.

d. The task force may establish its own rules and procedures with respect to the conduct of its meetings and other affairs not inconsistent with law.

e. Each member shall serve for a term of 24 months, to commence after the final member of the task force is appointed. Any vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A person filling such vacancy shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the succeeded member.

f. No member of the task force shall be removed from office except for cause and upon notice and hearing by the appropriate appointing official.

g. The task force may request and shall receive all possible cooperation from any department, division, board, bureau, commission, borough president, agency or public authority of the city of New York, for assistance, information, and data as will enable the task force to properly carry out its functions.

h. The task force shall issue a report to the mayor and council no later than twelve months after the final member of the task force is appointed. Such report shall include the following:

(i) An analysis of the feasibility and implications of equipping New York city police department officers with body-worn cameras to record all interactions, including but not limited to: (1) the costs associated with equipping officers with such cameras and building an infrastructure to support the use of said cameras; (2) the privacy implications associated with equipping officers with such cameras; (3) best practices that the department should undertake to ensure that video footage is properly stored; (4) best practices that the department should undertake with regards to how such cameras will begin recording and when an officer may disengage such recording device; and (5) the evidentiary issues associated with using video footage recorded by a police officer in criminal proceedings; and

(ii) Any other recommendations to assist the department in developing a body-work camera policy.

i. The task force shall terminate upon the publication of the report.

§2. This local law shall take effect immediately.

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