



SPOTLIGHT

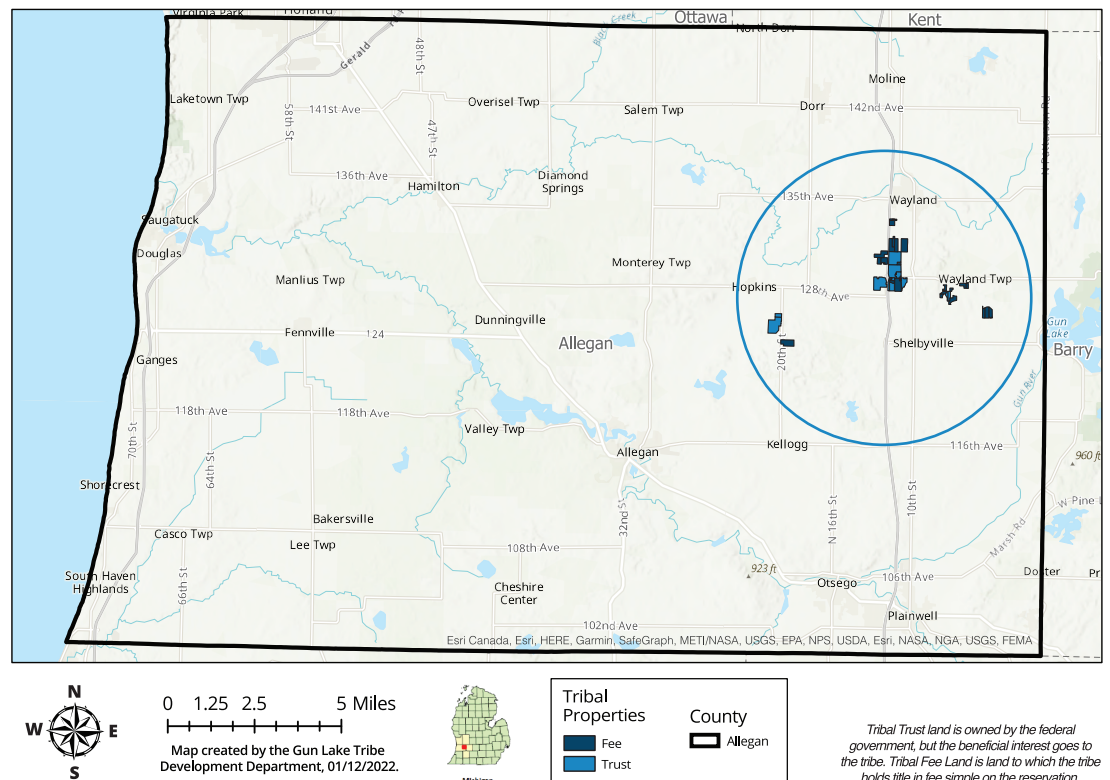
THE GUN LAKE TRIBAL PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT (GLTPSD)

IMPLEMENTATION, IMPACT, AND CONSIDERATIONS OF A BWC PROGRAM IN A TRIBAL COMMUNITY

The Gun Lake Tribal Public Safety Department has been granted authority to enforce laws and regulations set forth by the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians. The department currently consists of officers who are sworn to enforce tribal, state/local, and federal laws on and off Tribal Trust lands.

All officers are cross deputized through the Allegan County Sheriff's Department. Officers provide criminal investigations, casino support operations, school and youth liaison, and patrol responses and work closely to assist other tribal departments and law enforcement agencies in the area.

GUN LAKE TRIBAL PROPERTIES, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



18 OFFICERS



20 CAMERAS



IN-CAR SYSTEMS



LOCAL STORAGE

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRIBAL AGENCIES

- BWC policy must adhere to tribal, state, and federal law.
- FOIA requests and redaction requirements vary by jurisdiction (i.e., state law allows public release, but tribal law only affords tribe members access to video).
- BWC video captured on tribal land is regulated by the sovereign community.
- GLTPSD may need approval by Tribal Council before sharing BWC policy and subsequent changes to existing policy with external entities.

IMPACT OF BWCs

- BWCs augment documentation of incidents that occur at the tribal casino due to the lack of audio in Casino cameras; they protect the tribe against potential lawsuits, as the audio function of the GLTPSD's BWCs strengthens testimony and improves adjudication.
- BWCs improved relationships with local law enforcement; local agencies frequently request videos from GLTPSD on mutual cases. These agencies are considering adopting BWCs as well.
- BWCs have provided the prosecutors' office with higher quality recordings of evidence and interviews.
- The community accepts and appreciates BWCs.

BWC POLICY & IMPLEMENTATION

POLICY DEVELOPMENT



Before applying to the grant, the Gun Lake Tribal Public Safety Department had to receive Tribal Council approval for both the grant and matching funds.

During the policy development phase, Gun Lake had to follow not only Tribal law, but also Michigan state laws and federal laws, which differ in their levels of restrictions.

IMPLEMENTATION



In addition to coordinating with internal stakeholders such as IT and Records Management, the Gun Lake Tribe Public Safety Department coordinates with several external criminal justice stakeholders to implement its BWC program, including: Tribal Court, Tribal Prosecutor, Allegan County Prosecutor, Tribal Attorney, and the US Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan.

The most significant difference between a tribal BWC program and a municipal law enforcement BWC program is downstream coordination with other criminal justice entities.

"The BWCs have shown themselves to be invaluable in the support of prosecuting cases and ensuring the community is receiving a true and accurate account of all incidents."

Dennis Wilkins, Gun Lake Tribal Public Safety Director



**BODY-WORN
CAMERA**
TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



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