

# Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) and K-9 Handlers

## The Concern - Optics

“K-9 bites can appear very severe...If I am an outsider looking into the situation, I may not understand all that goes into a deployment of a dog.” Lt. Ari Morin, Fairfax County Police Department



## THE BENEFITS

### THE ENCOUNTER

BWCs can capture:

1. The announcements
2. The “alert”
3. The actions of the K-9 and handler
4. The suspect’s actions



“BWCs encourage your staff to behave at their absolute most pristine level - Major Mark Flynn, Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services”

### THE REVIEW

BWCs provide evidence for:

1. Internal after-action review (bite investigation)
2. Community member complaints
3. Prosecutors, judges, juries
4. City attorney (civil litigation)



“Having those cameras out there, showing those announcements and the number of them, is incredibly helpful - Mike McGuinness, City Attorney, Escondido (CA)”

### THE TRAINING

BWCs can be used in training to:

1. Review good and bad deployments
2. Review handler/K-9 communication
3. Review K-9 behavior (correction, retraining)
4. Develop scenario-based training

“For training, it [BWC] has become a valuable tool... we can watch a video and see why the dog didn’t do that (or did do it) - Sgt. Mike Murphy. El Cajon (CA) Police Department”

### CONCLUSION

BWCs have important benefits for K-9 handlers and for the review of incidents where a K-9 is deployed.

