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GLENDALE POLICE SHOWCASE NEW TECHNOLOGY DURING CONGRESSMAN ED PASTOR'S VISIT

GLENDALE, Ariz. – U.S. Congressman Ed Pastor recently had a firsthand look at how funding he sponsored is being used by the Glendale Police Department to equip patrol cars with new video technology.

Thanks to a \$940,000 federal appropriation sponsored by Congressman Pastor in fiscal year 2008, Glendale will be the first municipal police department in the valley to utilize in-car video technology in its full fleet of patrol cars. The dash-mounted cameras capture visual and audio recordings that can prove useful for crime prevention and in investigations.

During his Oct. 8th visit, Pastor learned more about the department's plan to roll-out the new technology, which calls for a limited number of cars to be equipped with the new technology for a test-phase in November. By February 2011, more than 100 patrol cars will have in-car cameras.

"These cameras will have a major impact on several fronts," says Glendale Police Chief Steven Conrad. Among those cited by Conrad are:

- Improved prosecution rates with video evidence of incidents;
- Officer protection, as recording interactions can be a deterrent to hostile behavior toward officers during a stop;
- Improved officer training with use of real-life scenarios captured by the new in-car cameras.

(more)



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Police car cameras

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“This is an example of law enforcement and technology having a positive effect on the public by making everyone more accountable for their actions,” says Conrad. “It enhances crime prevention and the fair and equitable treatment of all people.”

Congressman Pastor agrees. “This type of technology is critical for law enforcement and very important for the citizens of Glendale. I’m proud we can give officers the tools they need to keep our community safe,” he says. “Implementing this technology is a prime example of local and federal representatives working together. I’m pleased to be part of securing the funding that Glendale will be putting to such good use to enhance public safety.”

Currently, Glendale Police have one special-use car equipped with a camera to combat aggressive driving. From its use, officers learned that when suspects know they are being recorded, that fact alone is often enough to tone down behavior so traffic stops can be resolved without further incident.

The camera system purchased with the federal appropriation was chosen as the most officer-friendly and intuitive. In addition to cameras on the dashboard, it utilizes microphones in the patrol car and on officers. The system can be activated with the push of a single button or, in some cases, it will be automatically triggered when officers turn on their patrol lights. Once activated, the camera will capture sound and image from 30 seconds before the trigger, throughout an incident, and for another 45 seconds after it has been deactivated. The pre-record, actual incident, and post-record is captured as a single file without gaps.

Digital data captured by the cameras can be stored for up to 10 years when it is tagged to be retained for use in criminal prosecution.

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Photo IDs: Congressman Ed Pastor with Glendale Police Sgt. Jerry McDaniel.