



March 19, 2024

Robin Henderson, Interim Chief of Police
Austin Police Department
715 E. 8th Street
Austin, TX 78701

RE: OPO Policy Recommendations For Improvement to Austin Police Department's
General Order 303.4.2 When Camera System(s) Use Is Required

Dear Chief Henderson:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide feedback and recommendations for improvement to the Austin Police Department's (APD) General Order (GO) 303.4.2: When Camera System(s) Use Is Required.

The specific policies reviewed in this memorandum are as follows:

- 303.4.2 (b)When Camera System(s) Use Is Required

Based on OPO's analysis of current national best practices regarding courtesy transportation, OPO recommends that APD immediately implement changes to the General Orders. This policy analysis and recommendation addresses two significant areas of concern. First, APD does not require BWC activation for courtesy transportation, and second, no specific APD policy addresses the multiple issues that should be considered for courtesy transportation.

We look forward to addressing the items identified and improving these policies for the benefit of the community and APD's sworn personnel.

Sincerely,

Gail McCant, Director
Office of Police Oversight



303.4.2 When Camera System(s) Use Is Required

Recommendation #1:

OPO recommends that APD expand 303.4.2 (b).

OPO recommends that APD expand the policy to require BWC activation while providing any courtesy transportation of a non-prisoner.

(b) Examples of when camera system(s) must be activated include, but are not limited to:

9. When providing courtesy transportation for any non-prisoner.

Recommendation #2:

OPO recommends that APD create a new Courtesy Transportation policy.

At present, there are no guidelines in the General Orders regarding courtesy transportation. To ensure compliance with national best practices, APD should develop a separate policy establishing necessary safeguards when providing courtesy transportation. It is in the best interest of APD, officers, and the community to develop clear policies and guidelines for courtesy transportation.