

# Evaluating the impact of officer worn body cameras in the Phoenix Police Department

Charles M. Katz, Ph.D.  
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ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Targeted problems

- **Violence in general has declined in Phoenix but domestic violence has remained problematic**
  - 40,000 incidents of domestic violence are dispatched a year
  - Domestic violence is one of the top five call types
- **Shift in relationship with residents**
  - Police community relations complex in some communities
  - High profile events involving police-resident encounters in these same communities

## City Manager Task Force

- **Created in April 2010 to address residents' concerns about Police Department interactions with the community**
- **Developed 34 recommendations designed to increase community access to, communication with, and confidence in the Police Department**
- **One recommendation called for a pilot program involving the deployment of dash cameras**

## **PPD TASER AXON Pilot Program**

- **Police Chief made decision to test on-officer video rather than dash cameras**
- **90 day pilot program with volunteer officers from two precincts**
- **Pilot program policy developed in partnership with the police officer union**

## **PPD TASER AXON T&E Findings**

- **Participating officers completed a post T&E survey**
- **Officers acknowledged that video assisted with case prosecution / incident resolution, improved accountability, and reduced personal and agency liability**

## **On-officer video cameras**

- ❖ **Pilot led to decision to pursue SPI funding to more effectively evaluate camera technology**
- ❖ **Preparing to release an RFP to purchase on-officer video cameras that record interactions between residents and police.**
  - ❖ Use technology to collect evidence
  - ❖ Use technology to resolve disputes and build trust with the public

# The technology

## ■ Hardware

- Head or body- camera
- User controls, push to record, touch screen controls
- Video/audio feed and playback in field

## ■ Software

- Uploaded to an online web-based digital media storage platform
- Encrypted data



# Increase police and public accountability

- Record police and citizen interaction
  - Deter unprofessional conduct
  - Disprove allegations
  - Reduce resisting arrest and officer assault incidents
- Increase perceptions of legitimacy, trust and satisfaction with the police
  - Decrease complaints
  - Reduce civil judgments



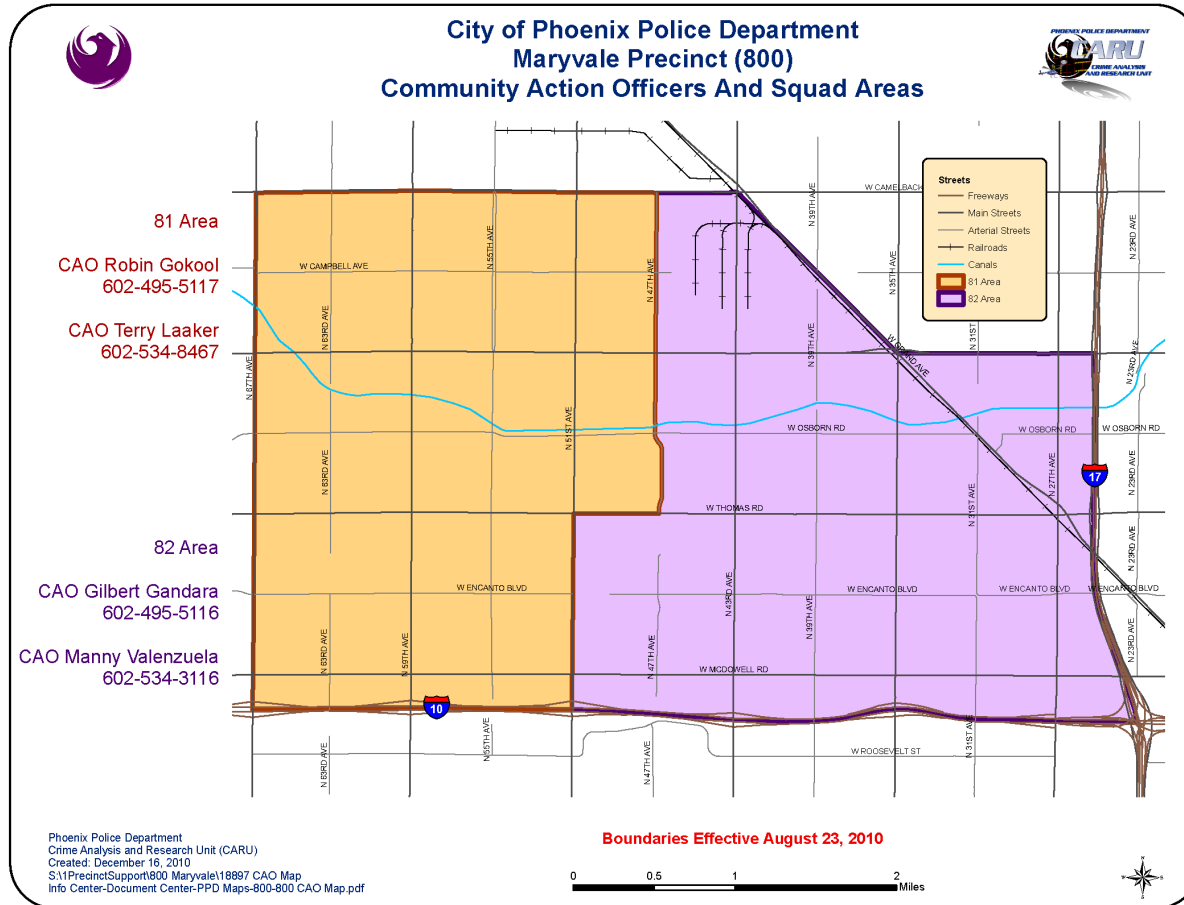
## **Increase the effectiveness of police response to domestic violence**

- **Improve officer recollection for reports and court**
- **Can be used as evidence**
- **Improve charging**
- **Increased prosecution**
- **Increased conviction rates**

# Project setting

- **Maryvale Precinct: 15 square miles with approximately 115,000 residents**
- **Large Hispanic and immigrant population, generally of lower socioeconomic status**
- **High rates of both property and violent crimes**
- **Two squads (areas 81 & 82)**
- **About 100 sworn first responders**

# Maryvale Precinct



# Monitoring and evaluation plan

## ■ Process evaluation

- Document the implementation process
- Describe the nature of the intervention
- Monitor how much of the intervention was delivered

## ■ Impact evaluation

- Identify short term impact
- Identify long term impact
- Identify unanticipated consequences of the project

## Quasi-experimental design

- **Repeated measures from the below sources**
  - Police/court data
  - Administrative records
  - Officer self-report surveys
  - Meta-data from cameras
  - Interviews with officers

## **Process indicators (examples)**

- **Officer familiarity & comfort with technology**
- **Change in perceptions & attitudes of technology.**
- **Frequency of technology use for domestic violence incidents (e.g., field, reports, court, and pleas)**
- **Frequency of technology use for officer performance (e.g., complaint proceedings)**

## **Impact indicators (examples)**

- **Change in accuracy and speed of incident reports**
- **Probability of arrest, charging, prosecution, conviction for domestic violence**
- **Change in officer behavior (e.g., misconduct, use of force)**
- **Change in complainant behavior (e.g., resisting arrest, assaults on officers, escape).**

# Preliminary findings: Officer perceptions

- Not well received
- Low familiarity of use
- Mixed feelings of effectiveness on court related matters
- Make their job harder
- Will not improve performance
- More accurate account of incidents
- Better evidence
- Will act more professional
- Effect decision to use force?
- Citizens will be less aggressive toward the police