## DOWNEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Dean Milligan Chief of Police

No. 19-09

## **Limitations of Body Worn Cameras in Medical Facilities**

Recently, there had been some discussion regarding the use of Body Worn Cameras within Medical Facilities and potential Hippa Law violations. For clarification, the Department consulted with our Legal Counsel and obtained the following recommendation which has been updated within our Department's Policies and Procedures in Lexipol.

Effective immediately, all personnel issued a body worn camera or recorder shall cease audio/video recording whenever entering a health care facility to ensure an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy.

The following change has been made in Lexipol to Section 423.5.2. Therefore, it is imperative all employees acknowledge the change within Lexipol.

## 423.5.2 CESSATION OF RECORDING

Once activated, the portable recorder should remain on continuously until the member reasonably believes that his/her direct participation in the incident is complete or the situation no longer fits the criteria for activation. Recording may be stopped during significant periods of inactivity such as report writing or other breaks from direct participation in the incident. Recording may also be stopped for private conversations between department personnel.

To ensure an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy, members shall cease audio/video recording whenever entering a health care facility. Members shall also cease audio/video recording whenever necessary to ensure conversations are not recorded between a person in custody and the person's attorney, religious advisor or physician, unless there is explicit consent from all parties to the conversation (Penal Code § 636).