

## CITY OF OAKLAND

Memorandum

**ATTN:** Director Joe Devries  
**FROM:** Captain Randell Wingate  
**DATE:** September 23, 2020  
**RE:** Report on Video Stream Usage: August 28-29, 2020

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This memorandum summarizes the use of Live Stream Transmitters by the Oakland Police Department (OPD), in support of the specified event.

Departmental General Order (DGO) I-23: Live Stream Transmitter Use Policy requires that for each use of live stream transmitters, OPD shall articulate the facts and circumstances surrounding the use in a written statement filed with the Chief Privacy Officer and/or Chair of the Privacy Advisory Commission within 72 hours.

**RD# or Incident #:** 20-042759

- **Date of Incident:** 28 AUG 20
- **Type of Event:** Protest
- **Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES
- **Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC:** 3 video streams

**RD# or Incident #:** 20-042912

- **Date of Incident:** 29 AUG 20
- **Type of Event:** Protest
- **Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES
- **Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC:** 3 video streams

**Basis for Use:** Video Teams were requested by Captain Wingate on 27 Aug 20, after analysis of the event (28 Aug 20). The intelligence gathered from open source social media outlets indicated a large group of people were gathering on 28 Aug 20, to commit acts of violence and vandalism. The organizer(s) posted language referring to “burning it down”. The recent protests and social media displaying similar language consistently resulted in acts of violence, vandalism, and scars on our downtown community.

The use of the live stream met the DGO requirements as the EOC was placed in operation by the City Administrator and the crowd size was predicted to be large enough to render oversight and control difficult. The late evening start time reduced the Air Unit’s (helicopter) flight duration. The Air Unit provides practically the only means of achieving active crowd size and activity information. Three video streams were provided

by the Video Teams to the EOC. The Video teams were effectively used to monitor officer conduct, supervision, crowd size, and crowd activity. OPD could not identify political speakers nor anyone willing to communicate with OPD.

The event for 28 Aug 20, ended with social media posts calling all protesters back for the night of 29 Aug 20. This created a second request for the video teams for this event. The information gathered from public sources again justified live transmitter use for upcoming protests; crowd size was again anticipated to be large enough to make command and control very difficult. The video teams were effective in gaining real time information on the officers' posture, crowd activity, crowd size, effectiveness of the filed supervision, and need for police presence.

Randell Wingate  
Captain of Police  
Support Operations Division  
Oakland Police Department

Inez Ramirez III  
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Oakland Police Department

# CITY OF OAKLAND

## Memorandum

**ATTN:** Director Joe Devries  
**FROM:** Captain Randell Wingate  
**DATE:** September 23, 2020  
**RE:** Report on Video Stream Usage: August 26, 2020

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This memorandum summarizes the use of Live Stream Transmitters by the Oakland Police Department (OPD), in support of the specified event.

Departmental General Order (DGO) I-23: Live Stream Transmitter Use Policy requires that for each use of live stream transmitters, OPD shall articulate the facts and circumstances surrounding the use in a written statement filed with the Chief Privacy Officer and/or Chair of the Privacy Advisory Commission within 72 hours.

**RD# or Incident #:** 20-042337  
**Date of Incident:** 26 AUG 20  
**Type of Event:** Protest  
**Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES

**Basis for Use:** Video Teams were requested by Captain Wingate on 25 Aug 20, after analysis of the upcoming protest event - intelligence gathered from open source social media indicated a large group of people were gathering for an anti-police protest in solidarity with protesters in Wisconsin. The social media posts spoke of violence on police officers and lighting fires in Oakland. Nationally, other agencies had seen days of violence starting on Aug 23, 2020 (the day of the Wisconsin shooting<sup>1</sup>). Since the George Floyd event, OPD has noted people coming to Oakland to mirror non-peaceful criminal behavior.

The use of the live stream transmitter met the DGO requirements as the EOC was placed in full operation by the City Administrator and the crowd size was predicted to be large enough to make command and control difficult. The California wildfires impacted the air quality and Air Unit visibility. The Air Unit is also used as a tool to give updates on crowd size and activity. The single Video Team was used to send real time images to the EOC.

The Video team was effectively used to monitor officer conduct, supervision, crowd size, crowd activity, and for real time situational awareness.

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<sup>1</sup> In the August 23, 2020 incident, Kenosha PD officers shot Jacob Blake, an African American male seven times related to a domestic dispute call for service; the event was captured on phone video by a bystander.

**Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC: 1 video stream**

Randell Wingate  
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# CITY OF OAKLAND

## Memorandum

**ATTN:** Director Joe Devries  
**FROM:** Captain Randell Wingate  
**DATE:** September 23, 2020  
**RE:** Report on Video Stream Usage: July 25, 2020

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This memorandum summarizes the use of Live Stream Transmitters by the Oakland Police Department (OPD), in support of the specified event.

Departmental General Order (DGO) I-23: Live Stream Transmitter Use Policy requires that for each use of live stream transmitters, OPD shall articulate the facts and circumstances surrounding the use in a written statement filed with the Chief Privacy Officer and/or Chair of the Privacy Advisory Commission within 72 hours.

**RD# or Incident #:** 20-036638  
**Date of Incident:** 25 JUL 20  
**Type of Event:** Protest  
**Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES

**Basis for Use:** Video Teams were requested by Captain Wingate on 23 JUL 20, after analysis of this event. The intelligence gathered from open source social media outlets indicated a large group of people were gathering on 25 Jul 20, to commit acts of violence and vandalism. The group planned to start the protest with shield training. This activity is indicative of known agitator groups who hijack large peaceful protests. The shield training indicates a greater expectation – if not intent - for a violent intent.

The use of the live stream transmitters met the DGO requirements as the EOC was placed in operation by the City Administrator and the crowd size was predicted to be large enough to make command and control difficult. The late starting protest also reduced the Air Unit's usefulness and flight duration capacity. The Air Unit (helicopter) provides one of the only means OPD Command possesses for real-time information regarding crowd size and activity. Two video streams were provided by the Video Teams to the EOC.

The Video teams were effectively used to monitor officer conduct, supervision, crowd size, crowd activity, and for real time situational awareness. There were no political speakers and the crowd was not willing to communicate with OPD.

**Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC: 2 video streams**

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# CITY OF OAKLAND

## Memorandum

**ATTN:** Director Joe Devries  
**FROM:** Captain Randell Wingate  
**DATE:** September 23, 2020  
**RE:** Report on Video Stream Usage: May - June, 2020

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This memorandum summarizes the use of Live Stream Transmitters by the Oakland Police Department (OPD), in support of the George Floyd event.

Departmental General Order (DGO) I-23: Live Stream Transmitter Use Policy requires that for each use of live stream transmitters, OPD shall articulate the facts and circumstances surrounding the use in a written statement filed with the Chief Privacy Officer and/or Chair of the Privacy Advisory Commission within 72 hours.

**RD# or Incident #: 20-026713**

- **Date of Incident:** 30 MAY 20
- **Type of Event:** Protest
- **Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES
- **Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC:** 2 video streams

**RD# or Incident #: 20-026817**

- **Date of Incident:** 31 MAY 20
- **Type of Event:** Protest
- **Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES
- **Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC:** 2 video streams

**RD# or Incident #: 20-027034**

- **Date of Incident:** 01 JUN 20
- **Type of Event:** Protest
- **Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES
- **Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC:** 2 video streams

**RD# or Incident #: 20-027193**

- **Date of Incident:** 02 JUN 20
- **Type of Event:** Protest
- **Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES
- **Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC:** 2 video streams

**RD# or Incident #: 20-027341**

- **Date of Incident:** 03 JUN 20
- **Type of Event:** Protest
- **Was EOC/DOC activated:** YES
- **Number of Video Streams provide to EOC/DOC:** 2 video streams

The nationwide protests that started on May 29, 2020 was the most devastating crowd control event in the history of Oakland. The George Floyd video created outrage with countless numbers of people locally, nationally, and globally. OPD officers and professional staff share in this outrage. OPD Command had very limited time to plan for protests once it became clear that large protests were likely to occur; OPD lacked specific intelligence signaling likely protests until late afternoon on May 28<sup>th</sup>; there is no Video Team request for the first evening of protests on 29 May 20.

The protests in late May and early June occurred somewhat continuously over several days; for this reason, the usage dates are included above and described here with one narrative. The usage continued until large protest activity ceased on 4 Jun 20. Captain Wingate requested the use of the video teams each day. The full activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was ordered by the City Administrator during this entire operational period.

The devastation which occurred on 29 May 20 justified the use of video teams on subsequent evenings. The downtown area had over 15,000 people massed in about three different clusters. The largest cluster occurred at 8<sup>th</sup> and Broadway; people in this area posted on social media the intent to burn down OPD's main Police Administration Building at 455 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Several other police department buildings nationwide had been set on fire. OPD was on a full deployment and had to call mutual aid before the sun went down.

Throughout the night Oakland was looted, burned, and destroyed by the unruly and very violent crowds. OPD and the several hundred personnel from outside police agencies were extremely outnumbered. Additionally, OPD was responding to the murder of a Federal Security Agent (which occurred at the Federal Building blocks from City Hall), burning businesses, and widespread acts of looting.

The use of the live stream video teams on the above listed nights was necessary to provide commanders with real time situational information. It is important to note the incredibly difficult task of commanding and controlling outside agencies in the field assisting OPD. When a directive is given by the Incident Commander, the most rapid way to ensure the message is clear and being executed is to see the officers in the field carrying out these directives. The average operational period would have up to 900 officers in Oakland participating in crowd management and addressing criminal activity.



The Video Teams were only used from a distance to capture the totality of the crowd size, activity, officer posture, and field supervision.

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