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## Mobile Audio Video

### 446.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Rio Dell Police Department has equipped each marked patrol car with a Mobile Audio & Video (MAV) recording system. The MAV is designed to assist and compliment patrol officers in the performance of his/her duties. The MAV is used to record certain activities by providing a visual and/or audio record. Video recordings are intended to provide an unbiased visual/audio record of the incident and to supplement the officer's report.

### 446.2 OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to going into service, each officer will check out the appropriate video media from the equipment room. At the end of shift each officer will return the video media to the equipment room according to the check-in procedures. Video media will be returned to the equipment room even if no activity was recorded.

Officers shall test the MAV system by recording his/her name, serial number and the current date and time at the start and again at the end of each shift. If the system is malfunctioning, the officer shall take the vehicle out of service unless a supervisor requests the vehicle remain in service.

### 446.3 ACTIVATION OF THE MAV

The MAV system is designed to turn on whenever the unit emergency lights are activated. The system remains on until turned off manually. The audio portion must be activated manually by each officer and is independent of the video; however when audio is being recorded the video will also record.

#### 446.3.1 REQUIRED ACTIVATION OF MAV

This policy is not intended to describe every possible situation where the system may be used however here are many situations where the use of the MAV system is appropriate. In addition to the required situations, officers may activate the system any time he/she believes its use would be appropriate and/or valuable to document an incident. In some circumstances it is not possible to capture images of the incident due to conditions or location of the camera however the audio portion can be valuable evidence and is subject to the same activation requirements as the MAV. The activation of the MAV system is required in any of the following situations:

- (a) All field contacts involving actual or potential criminal conduct, within video or audio range, which includes:
  - 1. Vehicular pursuits
  - 2. Suspicious vehicles
  - 3. Arrests
  - 4. Pedestrian checks
  - 5. DUI investigations including field sobriety tests

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6. Consensual encounters
  7. Responding to an in-progress call
- (b) All self-initiated activity in which an officer would normally notify Dispatch
- (c) Any call for service involving a crime where the recorder may aid in the apprehension and/or prosecution of a suspect, such as:
1. Domestic violence calls
  2. Disturbance of peace calls
  3. Offenses involving violence or weapons
- (d) Any other contact that becomes adversarial after the initial contact in a situation that would not otherwise require recording
- (e) Any other circumstances where the officer believes that a recording of an incident would be appropriate

Once the MAV system is activated, it shall remain on and shall not be turned off until the incident has concluded. For purposes of this section, conclusion of an incident has occurred when all arrests have been made, arrestees have been transported, and all witnesses, victims, etc. have been interviewed. Recording may cease if an officer is simply waiting for a tow truck or a family member to arrive or other similar situations.

**446.3.2 WHEN ACTIVATION NOT REQUIRED**

Activation of the MAV system is not required when exchanging information with other officers or during breaks, lunch periods, when not in service, or actively on patrol.

Absent legal cause or lawful order, no member of this department may surreptitiously record any other member of this department without the expressed knowledge and consent of all parties.

**446.4 REVIEW OF MAV RECORDINGS**

Recordings may be reviewed in any of the following situations:

- (a) By a supervisor investigating a specific act of officer conduct
- (b) By a department detective after approval of a supervisor who is participating in an official investigation, such as a personnel complaint, administrative inquiry or a criminal investigation
- (c) By department personnel who request to review their own recordings
- (d) By court personnel through proper process or with permission of the Chief of Police or his/her designee
- (e) By media personnel with permission of the Chief of Police or his/her designee

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- (f) Recordings may be shown for the purposes of training value. If an involved officer objects to the showing of recording, his/her objection will be submitted to staff to determine if the training value outweighs the officer's objection for not showing the recording.

Employees desiring to view any MAV recording shall submit a request in writing to the Sergeant. In no event shall any recording be used or shown for the purpose of ridicule or embarrassing any employee.

**446.5 DOCUMENTING MAV USE**

Any incident that was recorded with either the video or audio system shall be documented in the officer's report. If a citation was issued, a notation shall be placed on the back of the records copy of the citation that the incident was recorded.

**446.6 VIDEO MEDIA STORAGE AND INTEGRITY**

Once checked in, all video media will be labeled and placed in a designated secure storage area. All video media that is not booked as evidence will be retained for a minimum of one year after which time it will be erased, destroyed, or recycled (Government Code § 34090.6).

**446.6.1 COPIES OF VIDEO RECORDINGS**

Original video recording media shall not be used for any purpose other than for initial review by a supervisor. A copy of the original video recording will be made upon proper request for any person authorized in Policy Manual § 446.4.

Original video recording media may only be released in response to a valid court order or upon approval by the Chief of Police or his/her designee. In the event that an original recording is released to court, a copy shall be made and placed in storage until the original is returned.

**446.6.2 MAV RECORDINGS AS EVIDENCE**

Only in exceptional circumstances will original video media be booked into evidence. The exceptions would include a major event such as a homicide or as directed by the Sergeant or a member of staff. If a video media is booked into evidence, it shall be booked in the same manner as other property and referenced in the case report.