

# JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 16-3

## MOBILE VIDEO / AUDIO RECORDING EQUIPMENT

Effective: 04-01-09

Revised: 05-02-19

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**PURPOSE:** This Department has adopted the use of video/audio recording systems in order to accomplish several objectives, including:

- A. Accurate documentation of events, actions, conditions and statements made during arrests and critical incidents, so as to enhance officer reports, collection of evidence and testimony in court; and
- B. The enhancement of this Department's ability to review probable cause for arrest, arrest procedures, officer and suspect interaction, evidence for investigative purposes, the investigation of citizen complaints, as well as for officer evaluation and training.

**POLICY:** Mobile video/audio recording (MVAR) equipment has been demonstrated to be of value in the prosecution of traffic violations and related offenses, in evaluation of officer performance, the investigation of citizen complaints, as well as for training. Officers are required to use MVAR equipment during traffic stops, pursuits, and during prisoner transports as directed by this policy, when MVAR equipment is available and properly functioning. In order to maximize the utility of this equipment, officers shall follow the procedures for MVAR equipment use as set forth in this policy.

### PROCEDURES:

#### I. OPERATING PROCEDURES

Officers shall adhere to the following procedures when utilizing MVAR equipment.

- A. MVAR equipment installed in vehicles is the responsibility of the officers assigned to that vehicle and will be properly maintained.
- B. Prior to each shift, officers shall determine whether their MVAR equipment is working satisfactorily and shall bring any problems to the attention of their immediate supervisor as soon as possible.
- C. MVAR equipment will be set to automatically activate when the vehicle's emergency warning devices are in operation and functioning properly. The equipment may be manually deactivated during non-enforcement activities such as directing traffic, parade detail, funeral escorts, and other similar activity.
- D. Officers should routinely check to ensure that MVAR equipment is operating in order to record traffic stops or other enforcement actions as required by this policy. In doing so, they will ensure that:
  1. The MVAR is positioned and adjusted to record events whenever safe to do so.
  2. The MVAR is not deactivated until the enforcement action is completed.
  3. The officer's wireless body microphone is activated in order to provide narration with the video recording to explain the reason for the current or planned enforcement action.
- E. Officers are required to use MVAR equipment during:
  1. Traffic Stops: The MVAR will be used to record the entire duration of all traffic stops. Officers will activate the MVAR when following a vehicle they intend to stop. The MVAR will be deactivated only after the traffic stop has ended and the violator has left the scene.
  2. Pursuits: The MVAR will be used to record the entire duration of the pursuit. The MVAR will remain activated until the pursuit is terminated and any enforcement action is completed. Reasonable efforts will be made to record all officer and suspect interactions in its entirety. Officers will continue to operate their MVAR equipment if they continue