

The Connecticut General Assembly



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HAMDEN DELEGATION ANNOUNCE STATE BONDING

State Representatives Josh Elliott (D-88), Michael D'Agostino (D-91) and Robyn Porter (D-94), applauded the State Bonding Commission's approval of \$297,800 in funding for the Hamden Police Department.

The State Bonding Commission reimbursed the Hamden Police Department for their purchase of body cameras and video storage devices.

“On behalf of the Hamden Police Department, I am grateful that this substantial grant opportunity was made available to supplement and expand our on-officer wearable body camera program,” **Thomas J. Wydra, Chief of the Hamden Police Department said.** “Hamden police officers have been utilizing this extraordinary technological solution since 2013, and we have enjoyed an enhancement in community trust, agency transparency and legitimacy, and investigatory power as a result. While body cameras on police officers have become a game-changer in American policing over the last few years, police agencies must also continue to broaden our overall public outreach efforts as a path to greater connection and success with our neighborhoods and communities.”

“Body cameras for police simultaneously help residents and police feel safer in our community,” **Rep. Elliott said.** “For residents, they can be assured that police are held accountable for their conduct and that any interactions with police will be reviewed. For police, body cameras offer an efficient way to collect evidence and can help train fellow officers when dealing with high-intensity situations. In order to build a strong relationship between a police department and the community, there has to be trust and transparency, and these body cameras will do just that.”

"The use of body cameras helps further reinforce trust in our officers. They are also a critical training tool," **Rep. D'Agostino said.** "Our Department is a leader in the use of such cameras and I am pleased that we could secure significant funding for the town to continue this program. This is a great step towards increasing the bond between our neighborhoods and our police."

"Hamden has been a leader in implementing the use of body cameras in the state of Connecticut; and their continued efforts to build social cohesion between the Hamden Police Department and the residents of the town has been, and I am sure will continue to be, a pivotal tool in increasing public safety and public relations." **Rep. Porter said.** "This reimbursement from the state bonding commission will undoubtedly help to aid in their continued success and for that I am grateful."

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