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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NJDOC RECEIVES GRANT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BODY CAMERAS**

The New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC) announced that it has been awarded a Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies grant from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance. The grant period runs through September 30, 2022.

The \$250,000 grant will support a pilot project through which a total of 125 body cameras will be implemented at two NJDOC facilities: Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Clinton and Northern State Prison in Newark. The pilot program will support the creation of BWC policies and deployment as well as officer training.

“The safety of our staff and those in our custody remains our top priority, and this grant will strengthen the Department’s ongoing commitment to safety within its facilities,” said NJDOC Commissioner Marcus O. Hicks, Esq. “Body worn cameras provide this Department with a valuable opportunity to increase accountability and security for both the incarcerated population and employees, leading to reductions in use-of-force incidents, PREA allegations and misconduct.”

The New Jersey Department of Corrections mission is to protect the public by operating safe, secure and humane correctional facilities. The mission is accomplished through effective treatment of offenders and by providing services that promote successful reentry into society.

BWC deployment will occur in two stages at identified unit locations within each institution. The project will incorporate a three-part training program to ensure proper BWC use and policy adherence. The NJDOC plans to create a comprehensive policy framework and performance indicators tracking to expand the initiative, with the ultimate intention of positively impacting correctional operations across the state.

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