Michael Phillip

Police Body Cameras and a means for improved public relations.

Unfortunately, I have personally experienced racial profiling.  I have witnessed police officers perform their duties in what I consider an excessive manner; however, this is all my own opinion and wouldn’t stand up in the court of law.  Also, these incidents fade in the wind as it is not reported or tracked.  While I can personally state I’ve witnessed improvements with my dealings with police officers; I believe this is more of a result of my work and living environment.  I hear and read too often of police misconduct which gets reported and those which are only heard by trees.

There needs to be greater accountability within crime fitting community.  I believe the use of body cameras can add in this endeavor, but that is only the beginning.  There also needs to be substantial investment in record keeping and statistical analysis.  I am not talking about major analysis either. I’m referring to the accurate accounting of police activities with the public.  The FBI has stated, they receive statistical data regarding police shootings, but it is a voluntarily submitted by local police departments.  Also, the data is not broken down into racial demographics.

It almost appears to be some form of willful ignorance.  The Afro-American community has for years complained of unequal treatment by law enforcement.  Those cries have consistently fallen on deaf ears.  Yet with what occurred in Fergusson, the department of justice, led by Eric Holder, has stated the Fergusson Police Depart has created fear and resentment among African-Americans.  The questions needs to be asked; how were they able to do so in a modern America.   I can’t help but feel of the philosophical argument if a tree falls in a forest and no one is there, does it make a sound?  If no one from the greater American community analyzes the data and criticizes the information, how can improvements be made?

A 2013 study by Stanford University makes the argument, “***Exposure to extreme racial disparities, then, can lead people to support the very policies that produce those disparities, thus perpetuating a vicious cycle.”***  This is modern Americans, with access to real information and aware of the social progress being made, still holding to incorrect ideological beliefs under certain circumstances.  These are people behaving like people.  As such, I believe police cameras should be utilized by communities where the data suggest there exist these biases.

The 2012 book ***Social Trends in American Life: Findings from the General Social Survey Since 1972*** suggest there has been significant improvement in racial opinions from 1972 to 2012.  This can easily be seen with the election of President Barak Obama.  It further suggest there is significant room for improvement.

Site California Study – Journal of Quantitative Criminology.

Cost $5000

Incomplete Citations

Ariel B., Farrar W. A., Sutherland A. “The Effect of Police Body-Worn Cameras on Use of Force and Citizens’ Complaints Against the Police: A Randomized Controlled Trial” [*Journal of Quantitative Criminology*](http://link.springer.com/journal/10940) 31.3 (2014): 509-535. Print

N.P. “CONSIDERING **POLICE** **BODY CAMERAS*”*** *Harvard Law Review* 128.6 (2015), 1794-1817. Print