



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE


Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director and Chief Equity Officer

MEMORANDUM

November 22, 2023

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director
Office of Management and Budget

From: Tiffany Ward, Director
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice 

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #24-32 State's Attorney's Office - US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant FY23 Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies – Competitive Grant Award (\$948,103)

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriations #24-32 FY23 *Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies – Competitive Grant Award* is inconclusive. While the funding will increase digital evidence processing capacity for the State Attorney's Office (SAO), ORESJ is unable to draw conclusions about the supplemental appropriation's ability to advance racial equity and social justice in the County.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The State's Attorney's Office was awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant to enhance digital evidence processing capabilities. SA #24-32 FY23 *Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies – Competitive Grant Award* will accelerate and enhance digital evidence production, processing, and data interpretation, increasing prosecutorial, defense, and judicial confidence in the lawful disclosure of digital evidence. The program will promote improvements in the effective use of digital evidence, prosecutorial decision-making, and case outcomes. These funds will provide resources needed to address the increase in the availability of body-worn cameras (BWC) and other digital evidentiary data. Funding will be used to create four grant-funded, three-year term Digital Evidence Technician positions.

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #24-32 State's Attorney's Office - US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant FY23 Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies – Competitive Grant Award (\$948,103)
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For additional information about BWCs, please see ORESJ's REIA of Supplemental Appropriation #23-28 #23-28 Police Accountability and Community Transparency (PACT) Grant Award, available at:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-28.pdf>.

cc: John McCarthy, Director, State's Attorney Office
Ken Hartman, Director, Strategic Partnerships, Office of the County Executive