



## Increasing Officer Safety & Simplifying Workflow

### Chief Onesimo “Mo” Lopez

#### City of Bellaire Police Department

My name is Bo Lopez. I’m the chief of police here for the City of Bellaire.

Here, at the police department, we are responsible for all the law enforcement functions within the city of Bellaire. We handle all law enforcement-related calls, anything from traffic stops to responding to calls for service, conducting our investigations, and interviewing suspects.

We also have the animal control function here, where we have a dedicated animal control officer who will go out and conduct investigations, talk to people, pick up dogs, and that kind of thing. So that’s what we do here, a full-service police department.

Before we transitioned to Utility and had their platform, the prior system we were using had so many different components. The officers had to check out different things, not just a camera but also a microphone for the car. But the system also had a deficiency in that it wasn’t unusual for batteries to go bad unexpectedly.

And missing that video evidence, it just really tied our hands. And so, we were missing part of the story. It was in that process that it came across Utility. We were so impressed with the functionality of it and how it just right off the bat, right out of the box looking at it, it immediately addressed the issues that we were having from the cameras falling off to the data upload to even storage, all that and those concerns, the problems we were having solve them all.

The system simplifies officers’ workflow by taking the need to process that digital video evidence out of their hands thoroughly. Because once it’s captured in the system, it is saved in the cloud, in the system. So, when it comes time, all they have to do is just click saved as evidence, and they’re done.

As far as sharing cases with the DA’s office. Once the case is created with us, they just log in, they can see that video in real-time. And if they need to go back and see it five, six, seven times, they can do it. We had an incident just yesterday where multiple officers were involved in a pursuit that went outside the city.

From here in the office. I was able to log into the system, listen to the radio, and had the ability to just to log right into a video and see what was going on. There was one case where I was watching a video and I saw one of our officers just doing one of the things we do, the routine things we do hundreds of hundreds of times a day. I saw her just handcuffing somebody

and I saw that and I thought, well, you know, I think there’s a better way to do that, using it as a coaching tool just for training. That’s an important, unexpected benefit. The ease of transferring data. I was hoping it would go faster, but I didn’t expect it to be as fast as it is. It is real-time uploading right to the cloud, and we can see that video almost instantaneously. It’s like thinking back to when I was looking for solutions for a body camera system.

One of the one of the most essential features that I found with Utility and EOS was the officer down feature. And that was important to me because here in Bellaire back in 2016, we had an officer die in the line of duty. He was on a motorcycle, went over a series of bumps, lost control, and crashed. The officers working that day couldn’t find him for 15 minutes.

If we had that in place in 2016, we would have found that officer more quickly. We could have gotten him the help that he needed faster, and he might still be with us today, preventing that from happening again. This has been my mission. And Utility does that. It is the system that’ll increase officer safety and help us find officers wherever they are.

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