



## **QUESTIONS YOU MAY NOT BE ASKING ABOUT YOUR DIGITAL EVIDENCE INVESTMENT**

**Thursday, January 7, 2021 2:30PM CST**

There are no shortage of City Council meetings these days that are discussing the implementation and use of Body Worn Cameras. Kustom Signals, as a pioneer in the video evidence category, agrees that these are important and relevant discussions to have. However, is your City Council informed enough to ask tough questions of us, as vendors? If not, you should.

What commitment are we making (how is our vendor choice going to ensure we succeed)?

The reality of this initiative is one that is likely to be enduring. As lawmakers continue to write policy and implement longer retention periods more data collects. That data, collecting and compounding has a cost. Your finance committee, or CFO should understand that annual costs will continue. Knowing this, how will you fund it year, over year, as data collects and grows?

Here are some ideas to stimulate conversation with vendors, and committees.

- Will this be funded in our operating budget?
- Will we need to borrow to fund this?
- How will we review this every year if not budgeted?
- Have we explored pros and cons of the cost drivers in the program?
- What grants or partners are available to fund these expenses?

What if we want to change suppliers a few years in (how will our vendor support our choice)?

Well, on the supplier end, our goal is to keep our customers as long as possible. We have interest in making sure that we continue to offer value to you, and your community. So, yes, you can change suppliers. However it may not be easy. Make sure you understand that the challenges you put in front of your vendors will reflect on how they will support you long term.

Here are some questions to ask your supplier(s).

- Does my city/agency own all of the data we collect?
- Does that include video, metadata, database files, logs and all digital evidence associated?
- If we do not renew our agreement with "Vendor X" will we still have access to view, manage and share our digital evidence?
- If we change suppliers, will we have any assistance or access to all data we need to archive or migrate?

The reality of these choices is not as easy as any of us would like it to be. Protecting our officers and our community in 2020 is evolving. Technology continues to bring innovation to law enforcement. The court system is aware that video evidence matters. However, all things considered, there are choices available.

Kustom Signals is here to help you make those choices. We are not shy about answering these questions.

**Go ahead, ask!** 1-800-458-7866 or use our ["Contact Us"](#) form