

Newport News Case Study



Overview

A new study from TASER and the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office in Newport News, VA, confirms documented benefits of on-officer cameras and shows how pairing AXON cameras with EVIDENCE.com can reduce the overall amount of time spent in a courtroom prosecuting DUI cases. Specifically, recordings of DUI stops **increased the rate of guilty pleas in DUI cases to nearly 90% from 70%**, producing significant savings in time and expense for the city.

About Newport News, Virginia



| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Population | 183,412 |
| Area | 120 sq mi |
| Sworn officers | 415 |
| AXON Flex cameras deployed | 142 |

Results

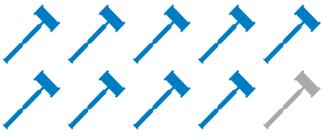
| | Number of Cases | Guilty Pleas | % Guilty Pleas |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Without video | 37 | 26 | 70% |
| With video | 35 | 31 | 89% |

The Study

Newport News provides an excellent sample department for such a study. Although their AXON camera deployment is substantial, they do not yet field a camera for every officer. As a result, there was a natural control group of DUI stops without video of the event available.

Over the course of six months, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office tracked DUI dockets, noted the presence or absence of video from the traffic stop, and recorded the outcome of the case. In just under half the cases, video was available. The results were striking.





9/10 Defendants Plead Guilty When Video Evidence Was Available

When video of a DUI stop was available, nearly 9 in 10 defendants plead guilty – roughly 20% more than plead guilty in cases with no video. When defendants plead guilty, officers are released from court early and attorneys spend less time prosecuting cases, reducing court time overall.



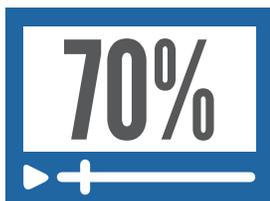
Court Time Saved Per Officer

The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office estimated that when a defendant pleads not guilty, officers wait 3 hours on average until the court finishes the docket and trials begin. The trials themselves can take up to 30 minutes. Therefore, each additional guilty plea represents as much as 3.5 hours of officer time in court saved – hours that are otherwise paid at the overtime rate.



Secured Guilty Plea in Advance

In over one third of cases with video, prosecutors secured a guilty plea before scheduled court appearances, and officers were not required to appear in court at all. This never occurred when video was not available.



View Video as Important Factor in Resolution

Prosecutors with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office confirmed the value of video evidence in DUI cases. In 70% of DUI cases with video, attorneys identified video as an important factor in the resolution of the case.

EVIDENCE.com Testimony

Newport News is an excellent example of an EVIDENCE.com deployment driving more efficient cooperation between a police department and the attorney's office.

"[The sharing feature] saves us time and money. Instead of downloading and burning discs for discovery we just enter an email address. It makes sharing a video as easy as sending an email. And the videos give a real life account of a situation that sometimes cannot be captured by testimony alone."

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Michael C. Perkins