

A Few Minutes with the Boss

By: Joseph Andalina

A funny thing happened...

...on the way to wearing police body cameras.

With all the uproar by the media to have cops wear body cameras comes this tidbit. In Poulsbo, Washington, police have been wearing these cams for about a year and the results have been good. The chief says it ensures accountability for his officers as well as the public they encounter.

But a new YouTube account is making agencies think twice about the cameras. Seems that someone has found a way to make a buck by posting body cam videos, sort of like funny home videos, animal shots, and Kim Kardashian's rear end.

So this new account holder has asked for "every second" of the body cam videos that have ever been recorded. Obviously they would eventually all wind up on this internet web site. The city claims it will take three years to comply with this request. And it will cost a lot, too.

They also cite possible privacy claims for individuals encountered by the police. Does everyone want to appear on a website in a police encounter, especially if it is most certainly an embarrassing portrayal of the citizen? It is something to think about.

Police departments all over the USA are experiencing more calls to have their police wear body cams. People see it as a way to vent their anger over real, and more likely, perceived problems with police by selecting any videos that would put cops in a bad light.

When you have the ACLU providing spotters in crowds of protesters to video cops reacting to mob behavior and violence, you know you are scraping the bottom of the barrel to find fault with the police. And why don't they ever videotape the instigators? If you're out there rioting and get caught up with aggressive police maneuvers to make the city and non-rioters safe, oh well.

So maybe this isn't a bad idea to put up all encounters on the web site via FOI or other requests by guys looking to make a buck.

When people see other people at their worst, either in violent encounters, intoxicated or drug induced mumbo jumbo, maybe the calls for body cameras will cease. A couple of politicians, media types, or other celebs caught "with their pants down" so to speak, and all of a sudden the calls for this type of cop surveillance will stop.

But for now it's coming, so we might as well get used to it. I can almost guarantee that there will be infinitely more bad behavior from the populace than the police. But will that make it on the tube?

Vita é bella