

QC council OKs body cams for cops

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The Quezon City Council, headed by Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, has approved the procurement of body cameras for the local police force.

Resolution No. SP-7468 authorized Mayor Herbert Bautista to procure 1,500 units of body-worn cameras and videos for the use of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD).

This would enhance crime monitoring and prevention and deter crimes and abuse by law enforcers while on official duty. The councilors said the benefits, particularly in terms of accountability, outweigh privacy concerns.

The resolution, introduced by Councilor Gian Carlo Sotto, was confirmed by the council on May 28.

Last year, the city government allotted P42 million for 800 cameras under its P5.5 billion supplemental budget but the acquisition did not push through.

Bautista vetoed on November 2016 a similar proposed ordinance that requires the installation of dashboard cameras in QCPD patrol cars.

He said in his veto letter that the proposed ordinance failed to comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.