

**NEW Leadership™ New Jersey 2017**  
**Political Action Project**  
**Introduction**

**NEW Leadership™ New Jersey** is a bipartisan program developed by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) to educate college women about the importance of political engagement and encourage them to become more active in the political arena.

**The six-day program is scheduled for June 8-13, 2017 at the Eagleton Institute of Politics**

New Brunswick, NJ. Each class includes a diverse group made up of more than 20 New Jersey colleges and universities. During the program, NEW Leadership™ participants meet women leaders with a wide range of backgrounds, experiences and political views, and participate in interactive workshops and hands-on exercises.

**NEW Leadership™ Political Action Project:** Participants work in small groups to research a current public policy issue. The political action project teaches students about a contemporary policy issue and the political process. It also provides an opportunity for them to practice public speaking and advocacy skills. On the last day of the program, each group makes a presentation in support of their assigned position on the issue.

**The topic for this year is Police Body Camera Implementation in NJ.** The New Jersey Attorney General issued a directive regarding the use of police body worn cameras (BWC) in July 2015. The directive states, “It is widely recognized BWC’s can play an important role in addressing public concerns about police use of force. . . .Not only in their ability to record objectively the circumstances of police-civilian confrontations, but also in their capacity to discourage both officers and civilians from engaging in inappropriate conduct.”

The directive does not mandate use of BWC’s, rather it provides guidance on how they are to be used, turned on and off and the when the recording may be viewed, disseminated and used. The decision as to whether to equip police officers with BWC’s is left to each law enforcement agency.

Since 2015, the Attorney General’s Office has provided more than \$4.5 million, including a new round of funds in 2017 to enable the police departments across New Jersey. Police BWC implementation has been an area of state and municipal cooperation. Nevertheless, up to 22 New Jersey municipalities have declined state funding to buy BWC’s for officers to wear as part of their regular uniform while on duty.

This action project assignment will be designed to highlight the importance of local government and educate our students about an important policy issue currently unfolding within our state. During the program, students will have an opportunity to research the issue and explore some of the benefits and challenges of equipping police across the state with BWC’s. Our goal is to ensure that our students are exposed to different perspectives and alternative views on the issue.

In addition, we invite a panel of policy experts to answer questions about the issues of policing—specifically police community relations and municipal government. This panel provides an important opportunity for students to obtain first-hand information from people with expertise in the fields of public policy, police-citizen encounters, and jurisprudence.

## **NEW Leadership Action Project Groups**

### **Group 1**

**You will serve as members of the New Brunswick City Council.** The Mayor and a six member council will be presiding over the public information session regarding Resolution NB2017-191. Your responsibility as a council member is to arrive prepared with thoughtful questions for each group testifying for or against implementing police body-worn cameras in New Brunswick. The mayor will open and preside over the session. The council will also have 5 minutes to ask prepared questions of each group testifying. At the end of the public information session, the council will vote on the resolution and each council member will give a brief statement on the reasoning for your vote.

### **Group 2**

**You are a coalition of organizations that support Resolution NB2017-191.** Your group maintains that BWCs can be useful tools to address concerns over community-police relations and civilian security, and also offers protection for police officers against false claims. This group agrees that NJ Division of Justice has established guidelines that strikes an appropriate balance between privacy and security. You are allies of Group 4. Your group will testify at the New Brunswick Public Information Session in support of the resolution. The group will have 10 minutes to present evidence and arguments in support of the resolution to acquire BWCs. Group 1 (the committee) will have 5 minutes to ask questions of your group.

### **Group 3**

**You are a coalition of organizations that are opposed to Resolution NB2017-191.** Your group asserts that BWC's are very expensive, once you include the costs of camera maintenance and data storage. Given limited funds and a tight municipal budget, your group believes this should not be a priority for the community. You are allies of Group 3. You will testify at the New Brunswick Public Information Session against the resolution. The group will have 10 minutes to present evidence and arguments against the resolution. Group 1 (the committee) will have 5 minutes to ask questions of your group.

**Group 4 – Press Conference in support of Resolution NB2017-191.** You are a coalition of citizens and organizations who are holding a press conference in support of the resolution to acquire body cameras for the New Brunswick police. Nearly half of New Jersey's 500 law enforcement agencies are now using BWCs, including nearby towns of North Brunswick, Perth Amboy, Plainfield, Edison, and the Rutgers Police Department. Evidence suggests that both police and citizens are less likely to engage in violent behavior when being filmed. You are allies of Group 2. You will present a 10-minute press conference to encourage public support for your position. You will be questioned members of the press.

**Group 5 – Press Conference opposed to Resolution NB2017-191.** You are a coalition of citizens and organizations who are holding a press conference in opposition to the resolution acquire body cameras for the New Brunswick police. You are allies of Group 3. Your group is concerned about the additional costs associated with BWCs, as well as privacy concerns of citizens. Some of the group express concerns about appropriate training and accountability of officers using BWCs. You will present a 10-minute press conference designed to encourage public support for your position. You will be questioned by members of the press.

**NEWL Draft Resolution on Police Body Cameras 2017**  
**RESOLUTION NO. NB2017-191**

**A resolution requesting the New Brunswick Police Department to promptly acquire body worn cameras (BWCs) for the use of police officers, to take the necessary action to procure body cameras, develop policy in accordance with the state directive on the use BWCs and appropriate funds for training, and storage of video footage.**

**WHEREAS**, body cameras can be useful tools that provide protection for law enforcement officers as well as accurate documentation of law enforcement activities relevant to the protection of civilians;

**WHEREAS**, currently 220 police departments (nearly half of New Jersey's 500 law enforcement agencies) have implemented and are now using body-worn cameras;

**WHEREAS**, in New Jersey, law enforcement agencies in close proximity to New Brunswick are already testing and using body cameras, including the police departments in North Brunswick, Perth Amboy, Plainfield, Edison and the Rutgers Police Department, and

**WHEREAS**, since December 2015, the Attorney General's office, has provided more than \$4.5 million to enable police departments across New Jersey to buy their officers body cameras. Mayor Cahill must commit to requesting appropriate funding from the State to purchase BWC's estimated at \$500 per camera as well as additional appropriations for officer training and camera maintenance are estimated at \$2,000 per officer (with 60 New Brunswick police officers) for the first year, or approximately \$750,000 over the next five years.

**WHEREAS**, the long-term storage costs for the video footage, which must either be hosted on local servers at the department or by an outside contractor for a fee, the Council must authorize appropriate funding in the budget proposed for Fiscal Year 2018. The NBPD requests starting with 60 cameras, Storage costs are estimated at \$100/month per camera, which would estimate an expense of \$360,000 for the next five years.

**WHEREAS**, in addition to proper initial funding, maintaining public confidence requires a timeline similar to current forerunners, Jersey City and Newark's original plan for implementation- 6 months for the deployment of body cameras starting from the resolution approval; and

**WHEREAS**, it is additionally vital to the successful deployment of body cameras that policies and procedures be consistent with the New Jersey Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive No. 2015-1. Which addresses policies regarding use of body cameras including, when to turn recording on and off, procedures for the review of recordings by law enforcement, public access to recordings, privacy concerns, and video storage requirements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE NEW  
BRUNSWICK GOVERNMENT OF THE TOWN OF NEW BRUNSWICK HEREBY  
ADOPT THIS EFFECTIVE JUNE 13<sup>th</sup> 2017**