

## **CHARKIT PRESIDENT CHARLIE HINNANT FUNDS NORWALK POLICE BODY CAMERA PROGRAM**

Norwalk, Connecticut, August 24, 2015 – Charles Hinnant, President, Charkit Chemical Corporation of Norwalk, Connecticut, is one of two contributors from the private sector who donated funds toward the purchase of 35 cameras to be used by trained members of the Norwalk police department.

Mr. Hinnant spoke at the kickoff of the Body Camera Program on Tuesday, August 4, 2015. Addressing what prompted his donation of half of the \$50,000 investment, Mr. Hinnant said, “This is part of our company policy to be good corporate neighbors and public citizens. We call it ‘responsible distribution’ and are pretty active in the community. We reached out to the police department to see what we could contribute to, and about 30 days later, they came back with a suggested proposal. We’re pleased that we could do it.”

Norwalk Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik and Mayor Harry Rilling provided details about the Body Camera Program. Mayor Rilling stated, “This is really a major step in the right direction for the city of Norwalk, the police department and policing in general. There has been a human cry if you will for methods of being able to gather data that will help police officers. (The cameras) not only protect citizens, they protect police officers as well.”

Each of the 35 cameras is individually shaped like a pager. Each camera is clipped on to the officer’s shirt or motorcycle helmet to be turned on when an officer receives a duty call. At the end of a shift, the cameras are placed into a charging station which automatically saves film files in a cloud storage unit and clears the memory from the portable unit. Officers may not delete footage and it can only be accessed by Deputy Chief Susan Zecca, who will randomly pull videos to make certain everything is in correct working order. Footage is to be held for at least 30 days, longer in those cases that involve the use of force.

Kulhawik added, “Aside from documenting an arrest, the body cameras serve as a safeguard to reduce civil suits and to protect officers from unwarranted complaints. He concluded, “This is the start of something new. It’s a positive program.”

For more information, please contact Shawn McManus at 203-299-3220 or send an inquiry via email to [smcmanus@charkit.com](mailto:smcmanus@charkit.com).

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Charkit Chemical Corporation  
32 Haviland Street  
Norwalk CT 06854-4906  
[www.charkit.com](http://www.charkit.com)