

A large, stylized orange chevron pointing to the right, serving as a background for the text.

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FY15 Perspectives Video

DPS Charlie Beck Transcript

Video Transcript

Charlie Beck, Chief of
Police, Los Angeles
Police Department

My father was a police officer and like all of us I had great respect for my dad and I saw what a positive difference it made in his life and in my life.

Police work is almost unrecognizable compared to when I started. The biggest part of the change is that the job is so much more complicated.

Technology is a huge part of policing today and in my past it wasn't at all – Now many of my

officers have body cameras, almost half the force has in car video, all of them are computer dispatched, they all have computer terminals in their cars, we track crime with the use of predictive policing and an algorithm model that predicts where crime will occur.

I know we do our job better, we are much better at policing than when I was a young cop, we are more effective, we have better results, the young police officers today are much smarter and much more dedicated than me and my peers.

I think public trust is a big part of why we do this. In LA we have about 10,000 police officers that patrol a city of 4 million and 500 square miles and you just can't do it without public trust.

Policing will always be a people business, it always when you cut away the technology and you cut away all of the law, it comes down to trying to resolve conflict and we resolve conflict on a personal level and so I think cops will be aided by digitization and technology but it is always going to come down to what is in here and I think that is the beauty of policing.