



SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 2

Meeting Date: May 7, 2026

Item Number: 1

Item Description: **Public Safety Technology: Surveillance Technology Ordinance and Police Equipment Ordinance Approvals, Policy Updates, and Contract Authority**

Submitted by: **Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe**

This supplemental proposes new language to the Use Policy for Unmanned Aerial Systems, limiting deployment to a specific set of conditions.

Surveillance Use Policy-Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Policy 1303

1303.2 AUTHORIZED USE

Authorized operators may deploy the UAS in the following circumstances:

1. To provide real-time situational awareness during high-risk or critical incidents, such as barricaded suspects, hostage situations, active shooters, the apprehension of armed and dangerous suspects, the pre-planning and service of a warrant allowing officers to create time and distance to formulate de-escalation strategies, facilitate safe tactical planning, and reduce the need for immediate physical engagement.
2. To assist in locating lost, missing, or injured persons during search and rescue operations.
3. To rapidly respond to calls for service **reporting** to verify the nature of the incident, ~~potentially determining that a law enforcement response is unnecessary for unfounded reports or low-priority incidents, thereby acting as a resource multiplier and keeping patrol officers available for other calls.~~
 - a. That the suspect is believed to still be on scene or in the immediate area of the scene, and could reasonably cause harm to those present, or
 - b. a crime involving suspected physical violence, or
 - c. there is an imminent risk of physical injury due to crime or a medical issue.
4. To locate fleeing suspects to effectively contain perimeters and reduce the need for dangerous ground-based foot pursuits.
5. To track fleeing vehicles from a safe distance, allowing patrol units to de-escalate or terminate dangerous ground pursuits while maintaining visual contact.
6. To clear interior buildings or confined spaces remotely to prevent potentially violent encounters between officers and hidden suspects.
7. To assist the Fire Department with fire mitigation and suppression, hazardous materials releases, or disaster response and recovery.
8. To remotely inspect potential explosive devices or hazardous objects.
9. To document complex crime scenes, accident scenes, or areas where an aerial perspective is critical for the investigation.
10. To respond to active criminal activity at mass gatherings or special events.

11. To mitigate hazards caused by other UAS interfering with emergency operations.
12. For pilot certification training and maintenance of proficiency.
13. To address other unforeseen exigent circumstances where there is an imminent threat to public safety, provided the deployment is consistent with the general privacy and safety principles of this policy

1303.7 CIVIL LIBERTIES AND RIGHTS PROTECTIONS

The Department acknowledges that UAS operations involve inherent privacy considerations, specifically the risk of inadvertently capturing footage of private areas (e.g., backyards or through windows) or uninvolved community members. To address this, the Department prioritizes civil liberties by restricting recording to authorized missions and strictly adhering to the restrictions on random surveillance outlined in Section 611.6 (Prohibited Use).

To safeguard these rights, UAS operations shall adhere to the following restrictions:

1. Absent a warrant or exigent circumstances, operators and observers shall adhere to FAA regulations and shall not intentionally record or transmit images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., residence, yard, enclosure).
2. Operators and observers shall take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of uninvolved community members or areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Cameras shall be diverted away from private spaces when not actively engaged in a permitted use.
3. For DFR operations, cameras shall be programmed to orient toward the horizon (preventing ground recording) while in transit to a call for service and shall only be directed toward the scene upon arrival at the authorized location.
4. For DFR operations, no microphone or other audio sensing device shall be activated at any time.

Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Operations Policy 611

611.3 PRIVACY

The Department acknowledges that UAS operations involve inherent privacy considerations, specifically the risk of inadvertently capturing footage of private areas (e.g., backyards or through windows) or uninvolved community members. To address this, the Department prioritizes civil liberties by restricting recording to authorized missions and strictly adhering to the restrictions on random surveillance outlined in Section 611.6 (Prohibited Use).

To safeguard these rights, UAS operations shall adhere to the following restrictions:

- 1) Absent a warrant or exigent circumstances, operators and observers shall adhere to FAA regulations and shall not intentionally record or transmit images of any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g., residence, yard, enclosure).
- 2) Operators and observers shall take reasonable precautions to avoid inadvertently recording or transmitting images of uninvolved community members or areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Cameras shall be diverted away from private spaces when not actively engaged in a permitted use.
- 3) For DFR operations, cameras shall be programmed to orient toward the horizon (preventing ground recording) while in transit to a call for service and shall only be directed toward the scene upon arrival at the authorized location
- 4) For DFR operations, no microphone or other audio sensing device shall be activated at any time.

611.5 PERMITTED USE

Authorized operators may deploy the UAS in the following circumstances:

- 1) To provide real-time situational awareness during high-risk or critical incidents, such as barricaded suspects, hostage situations, active shooters, the apprehension of armed and dangerous suspects, the pre-planning and service of a warrant allowing officers to create time and distance to formulate de-escalation strategies, facilitate safe tactical planning, and reduce the need for immediate physical engagement.
- 2) To assist in locating lost, missing, or injured persons during search and rescue operations.

- 3) To rapidly respond to calls for service **reporting** ~~to verify the nature of the incident, potentially determining that a law enforcement response is unnecessary for unfounded reports or low priority incidents, thereby acting as a resource multiplier and keeping patrol officers available for other calls.~~
 - a) **That the suspect is believed to still be on scene or in the immediate area of the scene, and could reasonably cause harm to those present, or**
 - b) **a crime involving suspected physical violence, or**
 - c) **there is an imminent risk of physical injury due to crime or a medical issue.**
- 4) To locate fleeing suspects to effectively contain perimeters and reduce the need for dangerous ground-based foot pursuits.
- 5) To track fleeing vehicles from a safe distance, allowing patrol units to de-escalate or terminate dangerous ground pursuits while maintaining visual contact.
- 6) To clear interior buildings or confined spaces remotely to prevent potentially violent encounters between officers and hidden suspects.
- 7) To assist the Fire Department with fire mitigation and suppression, hazardous materials releases, or disaster response and recovery.
- 8) To remotely inspect potential explosive devices or hazardous objects.
- 9) To document complex crime scenes, accident scenes, or areas where an aerial perspective is critical for the investigation.
- 10) To respond to active criminal activity at mass gatherings or special events.
- 11) To mitigate hazards caused by other UAS interfering with emergency operations.
- 12) For pilot certification training and maintenance of proficiency.
- 13) To address other unforeseen exigent circumstances where there is an imminent threat to public safety, provided the deployment is consistent with the general privacy and safety principles of this policy.