



City of Anaheim
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

July 27, 2016

The Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: 2015-2016 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Drones: Know Before You Fly"

Honorable Judge Margines:

As the City Manager of the City of Anaheim, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the City to the 2015-2016 Orange County Grand Jury Report, "Drones: Know Before You Fly." The responses contained in this letter were approved by the Anaheim City Council during regular session on July 26, 2016. The City's responses address the Orange County Grand Jury Report's findings and recommendations relevant to the report and are in accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.5.

FINDINGS

F.1. Recreational drones have greatly increased in number since December 2015 and it is probable their unregulated use will pose significant threats to public safety and privacy in Orange County cities and unincorporated areas.

Response: The City of Anaheim agrees with this finding.

F.2. With the exception of the recent Federal Aviation Administration registration rule, recreational drone owners are largely self-policed, which leads to a wide range of behavior.

Response: The City of Anaheim agrees with this finding.

F.3. Most of the cities and unincorporated areas of the County of Orange do not have a drone ordinance, nor do they have any immediate plans to enact an ordinance in the near future.

Response: The City of Anaheim agrees with this finding.

F.4. Most of the cities provide no educational programs for public awareness of the safety issues connected to recreational drones.

Response: The City of Anaheim agrees with this finding.

F.5. Some Orange County cities, despite recognizing potential issues with drones, are awaiting drone-related legislative action or other guidance by the State of California or FAA before enacting local ordinances.

Response: The City of Anaheim agrees with this finding.

F.6. The FAA-required registration of recreational drones provides a useful tool for local enforcement of drone ordinances.

Response: The City of Anaheim agrees with this finding.

F.7. Orange County cities have not established a procedure for reporting drone incidents, which results in under-reporting of drone safety and privacy events.

Response: The City of Anaheim agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R.1. Each City Council should direct its City Attorney to provide a report to the city's police department and City Council on existing laws that can be applied to the use of recreational drones in the city's jurisdiction on December 30, 2016 (F.2., F.3., F.5., and F.6.)

Response: The City of Anaheim has not yet implemented this recommendation, but is in the process of completing it, with an estimated implementation date prior to December 30, 2016.

R.2. Each City should adopt a recreational drone ownership and operation ordinance, with regulations similar to those found in Los Angeles City Ordinance #183912, by March 31, 2017, to the extent not preempted or superseded by Federal law or Federal regulations. (F.1, F.2., F.3., F.5., F.6.)

Response: The City of Anaheim has not yet implemented this recommendation. A proposed ordinance will be presented to the Anaheim City Council for consideration prior to March 31, 2017.

R.3. Each City should inform its citizens about laws and ordinances that apply to recreational drone operators through print media, city-related web sites, social media sites and/or public forums by March 31, 2017. (F.4., F.6.)

Response: The City of Anaheim has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will implement it in the future, prior to March 31, 2017.

R.4. Each City should establish and publish on its website a point of contact for drone-related citizen complaints by December 30, 2016. (F.7.)

Response: The City of Anaheim has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will implement it in the future, prior to December 30, 2016.

R.5. Each City should post FAA drone ownership and operation educational links on city-related websites, newsletters, and flyers by December 30, 2016. (F.4.)

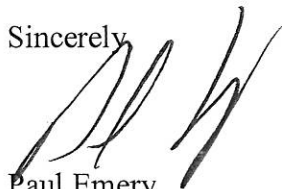
Response: The City of Anaheim has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will implement it in the future, prior to December 30, 2016.

R.9. The County and each City should formally gather data on recreational drone incidents within their jurisdictions and review this data annually and report the results publicly. The first analysis and publication should occur within 1 year of the publication of this report. (F.1., F.2., F.3., F.7.)

Response: The City of Anaheim has implemented this recommendation and currently collects data on drone incidents within our jurisdiction. Results of the data will be made public within one year of the publication of the 2015-2016 Orange County Grand Jury Report "Drones: Know Before You Fly."

I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of the Orange County Grand Jury. The City is committed to providing a safe and peaceful environment for all who live, work and play in Anaheim. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Anaheim Police Captain Jarret Young, at (714) 765-1401 or jyoung@anaheim.net.

Sincerely,



Paul Emery
City Manager

c: Orange County Grand Jury
City Clerk, City of Anaheim