



CITY OF COSTA MESA

P.O. BOX 1200, COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

August 8, 2016

RE: "DRONES: KNOW BEFORE YOU FLY" CITY RESPONSE

Dear Judge Margines:

The City of Costa Mesa has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury report, "Drones: Know Before You Fly." This written communication is in response to the six (6) findings and six (6) recommendations. The City of Costa Mesa is one of just a small handful of Orange County agencies that currently has an ordinance in place for unmanned model aircrafts, to include drones. The City has an approved fly field location and has permitting and insurance requirements that are necessary for the legal operation of a recreational unmanned model aircraft.

FINDINGS:

F1. The City of Costa Mesa agrees with the finding.

F2. The City of Costa Mesa partially disagrees with the finding.

The City currently has its own ordinance in place that provides rules, regulations and allowable locations for the recreational use of unmanned model aircrafts. This ordinance is an additional means to hold users accountable, along with the FAA Administrative rules.

F3. The City of Costa Mesa agrees with the finding.

The City is one of just a small handful of cities that does currently have an ordinance in place that regulates the use of model aircrafts, including drones.

F4. The City of Costa Mesa agrees with the finding.

The City does provide information in print and via the City's website, www.costamesaca.gov, regarding education for model aircraft users. The City also works closely with a local 'soaring society' which provides education and direction to new recreational users of model aircrafts, including drones.

F5. The City of Costa Mesa agrees with the finding.

F6. The City of Costa Mesa agrees with the finding.



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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The City of Costa Mesa City Attorney will advise both the City Council and the Police Department on existing laws that can be applied within the City's jurisdiction to the City's current model aircraft ordinance. This information will be relayed by December 30, 2016.

- R2. The recommendation has been implemented.

At present, the City of Costa Mesa has an ordinance in place for the ownership and operation of model aircrafts, to include drones. The City has an approved fly field location for this recreational activity that is permitted through the City Parks & Community Services Department.

- R3. The recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Costa Mesa allows the recreational flying of model aircraft, including drones, at one (1) public location, the approved fly field in the City's Fairview Park. City ordinances, FAQ's and contact information are provided in print at this park location. The City's website, www.costamesaca.gov, has a page specifically designated for model aircraft operations. This page provides rules and regulations, FAQ's, FAA and City permitting requirements, educational materials and important contact information. City social media outlets also include model aircraft information on a semi-regular basis.

- R4. The recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Costa Mesa website, www.costamesaca.gov, has a page specifically designated for model aircraft operations. Listed on this page are both a City e-mail address and contact phone number for residents to ask questions, report issues and/or submit a complaint if necessary. These items are routed to the Parks & Community Services Department staff.

- R5. The recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Costa Mesa website, www.costamesaca.gov, lists FAA drone ownership and operation educational links. Print materials onsite at the City's approved fly field location also list useful information and website



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addresses for both local and federal requirements. Print materials are also provided at the Parks & Community Services Department central registration location.

R9. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

The City will formally gather data on recreational drone incidents within their jurisdiction and review annually. This information will be made available to the public.

The City of Costa Mesa is committed to providing a safe and regulated experience for unmanned model aircraft pilots and enthusiasts.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Hatch
Chief Executive Officer
City of Costa Mesa