



Mike Hamel, Director of Public Safety
Public Safety - Irvine Police Department - (949) 724-7000

www.irvinepd.org

City of Irvine, One Civic Center Plaza, P.O. Box 19575, Irvine, California 92623-9575

(949) 724-6000

October 20, 2016

Carrie L. Carmody, Ph.D.
Foreperson
Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Dr. Carmody:

This letter responds to your September 7 request that the City of Irvine provide a scope and timeframe for further action in response to Recommendation No. 2 of the 2015-16 Grand Jury Report entitled: "Drones Know Before You Fly" (the "Report"). For reference, the Report's recommendation and the City's original response were as follows:

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similar to those found in Los Angeles City ordinance # 183912, by March 31, 2017, to the extent not preempted or superseded by Federal law or Federal regulations.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 recommendation requires further analysis. There are numerous proposed federal and state laws that would regulate the operation of drones. Therefore, adopting a "recreational drone ownership and operation ordinance" is premature and warrants further analysis. However, the City will be considering an amendment to its Municipal Code to prohibit flying drones in city parks.

Since providing the above response, the City has continued to monitor state and federal legislation that would regulate the operation of drones in our community. Additionally, on September 29, 2016 the City participated in an "Orange County Drone Policy Roundtable" sponsored by the Orange County Division of the Association of California Cities. The meeting was attended by representatives from several cities in Orange County, including representatives from the Orange County Fire Authority and the Orange County Sheriff's Department. The Roundtable included a panel discussion covering several topics including pending legislation, the drone ordinance adopted by the City of Los Angeles, Federal Aviation Administration regulations and drone software improvements that utilize "geo-fencing" as a way to safeguard the public by automatically enabling flight restrictions.

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As a result of the Roundtable, the Orange County Division of the Association of California Cities established a "Drone Policy Working Group" tasked with developing a model Countywide Drone Ordinance. The City of Irvine will be a participant in the Working Group and its first meeting will be held on October 26, 2016. We believe developing a model drone ordinance collaboratively with other local jurisdictions is beneficial to the public because it ensures greater consistency for those who desire to operate drones in Orange County. A completion deadline for the model drone ordinance has not yet been established by the Working Group.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (949) 724-7110.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hallinan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M".

Mike Hallinan
Police Commander