



CITY OF
Los Alamitos
California

3191 Katella Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5600
Telephone: (562) 431-3538
FAX: (562) 493-1255
www.cityoflosalamitos.org

December 21, 2016

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

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON RESPONSE TO 2015-2016 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND
JURY REPORT DRONES: KNOW BEFORE YOU FLY."**

Dear Judge Margines:

The City of Los Alamitos received the Orange County Grand Jury Report regarding "Drones: Know Before You Fly." The City is appreciative of the Grand Jury for addressing this subject and offers the following responses based on the information provided by the Grand Jury in its report. We had promised to provide an update to our City Council by December 30, 2016. The attached update on our progress was provided to the Los Alamitos City Council during their December 12, 2016 City Council meeting.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steven Mendoza, Development Services Director at (562) 431-3538, extension 300.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS

Bret M. Plumlee
City Manager

Enclosure

City of Los Alamitos

**Agenda Report
Consent Calendar**

**December 12, 2016
Item No: 8H**

To: Mayor & Members of the City Council

Via: Bret M. Plumlee, City Manager

From: Steven A. Mendoza, Development Services Director

Subject: Progress Update on deadlines for the Orange County Grand Jury's Drone Regulations

Summary: This report provides an update on the progress toward meeting deadlines established by the Grand Jury in regards to recreational drone regulations.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Background

The Orange County Grand Jury annually researches topics related to Orange County Cities. On May 27, 2016, the 2015-2016 Orange County Grand Jury issued a report entitled: **Drones: Know Before You Fly**. The report reflects the Grand Jury's opinion that Orange County Cities need local ordinances to educate drone users, monitor local drone related complaints and enforce regulations related to the inappropriate use of drones. The Grand Jury felt that the growth in the purchase of low cost, unmanned aircraft has created new issues for all consumers and government entities regarding safety and privacy.

The Orange County Grand Jury established deadlines which have to be met by Orange County cities. This staff report provides an update for the Los Alamitos City Council, regarding our progress towards meeting the deadlines established by the Grand Jury. Those deadlines are provided in Table 1 below:

Deadlines	
R-1	<i>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 by December 30, 2016.</i>
R-2	<i>Each City should adopt a recreational drone ownership and operation ordinance with regulations similar to those found in Los Angeles City ordinance #318392, by March 31, 2017; it should be regulated to the extent not preempted or superseded by Federal law or Federal regulations.</i>

Deadlines	
R-3	<i>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.</i>
R-4	<i>Each city should establish and publish on its website a point of contact for drone-related citizen complaints by December 30, 2016.</i>
R-5	<i>Each city should post FAA drone ownership and operation education links on city-related websites, newsletters, and flyers by December 30, 2016.</i>

Discussion

There are two separate deadlines, December 30, 2016 and March 31, 2017. Grand Jury Response 1, Grand Jury Response 4 and Grand Jury Response 5 have deadlines of December 30, 2016. Below is a description of how the City has met those deadlines.

Grand Jury Response 1

In order to meet the directive of the Orange County Grand Jury's Response 1 (R-1) in the abovementioned table, staff and the City Attorney is providing the following update to the City Council and the City's Police Department regarding existing laws that can be applied to the use of recreational drones.

The City of Los Alamitos' Municipal Code has no regulations specific to addressing the use of drones more commonly known as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Federal laws affecting drones are enforced by Federal Officials such as the FAA and the Military. State laws affecting drones, including recently enacted SB 807 and AB 1680, are still being developed, and are being considered by the Association of California Cities Orange County (ACCOC) as explained below

Through the ACCOC, the City of Los Alamitos is working closely with other Orange County cities to develop a model ordinance to address the use of drones. The Association of California Cities Orange County (ACCOC) has created a Drone Working Group and is meeting monthly to develop the model ordinance. The ACCOC Drone Working Group has made progress toward a model ordinance that can be specialized based upon the needs of various communities. The Working Group is attended by our Development Services Director, along with Senior Executives of other Orange County Cities, a few City Attorneys and a Police Helicopter Pilot.

Grand Jury Response 4

In order to meet the directive of the Orange County Grand Jury's Response 4 (R-4) in the abovementioned table, the City of Los Alamitos has completed the following task:

The Code Enforcement page of the City's Website has been updated to reflect the City's Development Services Director as the Point of Contact in regards to drone related complaints.

Grand Jury Response 5

In order to meet the directive of the Orange County Grand Jury's Response 5 (R-5) in the abovementioned table, staff has completed the following task:

FAA drone ownership and operation education links have been posted on the Code Enforcement pages of the City of Los Alamitos website and a flyer has been developed and is located in the lobby of City Hall.

Regarding future deadlines (Grand Jury Response 2 and Grand Jury Response 3) established by the Orange County Grand Jury, the City will continue to work with the ACCOC Drone Working Group on the development of a Draft Ordinance. Once the Draft Ordinance takes shape and is vetted, it will be presented to the Los Alamitos City Council for consideration.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Submitted By: Cary Reisman, City Attorney

Reviewed By: Steven A. Mendoza, Development Services Director

Fiscal Impact Reviewed By: Jason Al-Imam, Administrative Services Director

Approved By: Bret M. Plumlee, City Manager