



City of Huntington Beach

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CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

February 2, 2017

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

**RE: Progress Report to Orange County Grand Jury 2015-2016 Report titled
"Drones: Know Before You Fly"**

Dear Dr. Carmody:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a progress report to the Orange County Grand Jury on the City's efforts to implement recommendations contained within the 2015-16 report titled, "Drones: Know Before You Fly." Accordingly, please find the following progress updates:

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 by December 30, 2016. (F.2., F.3., F.5., F.6.)

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Huntington Beach City Attorney's Office is in the process of drafting an ordinance based on existing laws related to the use of recreational drones. A proposed drone ordinance was not approved by the City Council at its September 6, 2016 meeting due to concerns over applicability and enforceability. The City will participate in a drone workshop put together by the Association of California Cities – Orange County at the end of September. The City Attorney and Police Chief will provide a follow up report to the City Council prior to December 30, 2016.

Progress on Recommendation 1: The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) Drone Working Group has met three times since September, 2016. The most recent meeting was on January 26, 2017, to review a second draft of a proposed model ordinance on drone regulations. The City is pleased that Orange County cities are working together to develop a model ordinance and understand that such an ordinance will take time to incorporate the varied interests involved with regulating this new industry. The City is actively involved in this effort and is expecting a third draft of a proposed ordinance for review the first week of February, 2017. Based on this continuing collaboration, the City Attorney, Police Chief, and City Manager's office have not yet completed a follow-up report, but have orally communicated the progress of these efforts.

Upon receipt of a final draft model ordinance, the City will schedule the appropriate approval process and complete a report to the City Council. Based on the understanding of the progress to date, this report is expected prior to June 30, 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.)

*The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, **prior to December 30, 2016**. The City is in the process of adding a topic related to complaints about drone operations to its "Pipeline" citizen service request automated process.*

Progress on Recommendation 4: The City added two topics to our Pipeline citizen service request automated process accessible from our website: "Complaints about drone operations," and "Questions about drone operations." Persons submitting a complaint or question are directly referred to the point of contact within the Police Department. This recommendation can therefore be considered implemented.

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.)

*The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, **prior to December 30, 2016**. Along with the consideration by the City Council of a forthcoming drone ordinance, the City will have information readily accessible on its website regarding drone related guidelines, education, and federal regulations.*

Progress on Recommendation 5: The City added a web page to its website regarding drone related guidelines, educational links, and federal regulations. In the future this site will link to any adopted local drone ordinance. The website address is: <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/hbdrones>. This recommendation can therefore be considered implemented.

On behalf of the City of Huntington Beach, I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide this progress report to the Orange County Grand Jury.

Sincerely,



Fred A. Wilson
City Manager

C: City Council
City Attorney
Chief of Police
Assistant City Manager