



# SAINT PAUL POLICE

*Trusted service with respect*

## Unmanned Aircraft Systems "Drones"

### Background Information

The Saint Paul Police Department is seeking public comment as we research and design our policy involving the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Allowing the use of UAS technology in **appropriate and authorized** circumstances will better assist in the coordination and location of community members in need of assistance when time is of the essence.

Your feedback is important and valuable!

### Frequently Asked Questions

- Will the camera footage be available for public release like body worn cameras? *Yes, video will only be retained for seven days according to State Statute unless classified as evidence.*
- Who is in charge of training the drone operators? *The department will train officers to meet the FAA requirements for UAS pilots.*
- How will Council, Mayor and the general public know how many of these flights SPPD has conducted? *The department is required to provide annual flight data to the BCA per state statute.*

### Current Operations

76 Public Safety Agencies currently use UAS technology in Minnesota. Several others are researching or starting programs each month, providing their communities with invaluable technology and life-saving capabilities.

According to the FAA there are currently:

- 50,000 Public Safety Agencies with UAS programs in the United States
- 17,985 Law Enforcement Agencies

### Transparency and Accountability

- Every use of the UAS will be reviewed by a supervisor and each flight will be thoroughly documented.
- Third-party software will store and upload all flight data. This includes the dates, times, altitude, speed and direction of the UAS. Any complaints can be thoroughly investigated with the stored flight data.
- UAS platforms and pilots (operators) must adhere to strict federal FAA rules and regulations similar to manned aircraft.



Feedback can be provided by using this QR code:



### **Potential Deployment Scenarios:**

- Search and rescue of vulnerable or missing adults and children
- Emergency situations that pose a public safety risk
- Water rescue, flood assessment, natural disaster response coordination
- Crime scene and accident reconstruction and mapping
- Community Engagement

All authorized uses will comply with MN State Statute 626.19(2) which **requires a search warrant**, except as provided in 626.19(3).

### **Authorized use per Minnesota State Statute 626.19(3):**

1. During an emergency situation that involves the risk of death or great bodily harm
2. Over a public event where there is a heightened risk of safety
3. To counter the risk of a terrorist attack indicated by credible intelligence
4. To aid in natural or manmade disasters with planning, rescue and recovery operations
5. To conduct threat assessments in anticipation of a specific event
6. To collect information from a public area if there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity
7. To collect information for crash reconstruction involving serious injury or death
8. Over a public area for employee training or public relations purposes - Safe Summer Nights
9. To aid other government agencies, if that entity provides a detailed request in writing (which must include the specific reasons for use)

### **Prohibited use and limitations per Minnesota State Statute 626.19(4):**

The agency must not equip an UAS with weapons.

The agency must not use an UAS to collect data on public protests or demonstrations.

The agency must not use an UAS to conduct random surveillance.

The agency must not deploy an UAS with facial recognition or other biometric-matching technology.

UAS equipment must not be used to target a person based on characteristics such as an individual's race, color, creed, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender, gender identity, age, disability (including pregnancy), or characteristics identified as sexual orientation, affectional preference, marital status, familial status, status with regarding to public assistance or veteran status.

UAS equipment must not be used to harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group.

**Additional information can be found at: [www.stpaul.gov/uas](http://www.stpaul.gov/uas)**