

# Capitola Police Department

## *UAS (Drone) Program*





## Purpose

Enhance Officer and Public Safety with Industry Standard Aerial Support (Drone Deployment)

Assist allied agencies when appropriate

Collaborate with other City departments to enhance employee safety and efficiency

Aerial footage to enhance social media reach



# UAS Program Community Concerns

- **Safety**
- **Privacy**
- **Lack of Transparency**

# Safety Concerns

- Drones can pose safety risks, including crashing or malfunctioning, potentially causing personal harm or property damage
  - Very few documented instances of injuries from drone use not related to operator error.
  - Our operators are trained FAA Part 107 Remote Pilots.
  - Monthly training in accordance with CPD training plan (in development).
- Drones could be weaponized against the public
  - FAA regulations prohibit attachment of weapons to drones for civilian or law enforcement use.

# Privacy Concerns

- Capturing images and video footage of people in private places
  - Absent exigent circumstances or a warrant, our policy prohibits the intentional recording of images at any location where a person would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.
- Routine patrols of high-crime areas or even entire city/county
  - Routine patrols are prohibited by policy.
- Drones could be used to conduct warrantless surveillance
  - Policy prohibits random surveillance.
  - Camera is only in use during authorized operations.

# Transparency Concerns

- Capitola PD will not be fully transparent about our drone program, including policies, procedures, extent of drone usage, performance and results.
  - UAS Program policy, directive, and usage reports will be posted to the Police Transparency webpage.
- Transparency may lack key details such as drone capabilities (thermal imaging, etc).
  - Drone usage will be included in annual AB 481 reporting, which will include all key details such as drone capabilities (camera, thermal imaging, etc).

# Addressing Community Concerns

- There are more than 1,400 police departments in the United States using drones with great success.
- The key to success is a balance between the potential benefits and the protection of individual rights and privacy through clear regulations and oversight.
- Capitola PD will only operate drones within policy and directives.
- New technology will inevitably arise that can increase public safety but will also come with additional privacy concerns. We are committed to partnership with the community to ensure new tech does not violate reasonable privacy concerns.

# **UAS Program Policy**

**POLICY**

**PROCEDURE**

## **and Procedure**



# Policy and Procedure

## Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Program

### Purpose

- Promote safe, efficient, and lawful use of any UAS
- Ensure safety in all operations
  - Public
  - Property
  - First Responders
  - Equipment



# Definitions

## **Program Coordinator**

- Appointed by the Chief of Police
- Responsible for:
  - Managing the UAS program
  - Ensuring compliance with regulations, training, safety, and data management

## **Remote Pilot**

- Person exercising control over UAS during flight

## **Visual Observer**

- Person responsible for the visual observation of UAS in flight

## **FAA 14 CFR Part 107 (Part 107)**

- Required for individuals to operate UAS commercially (being paid)
- Ensures knowledge and skills meet FAA regulations

# Prohibited Use

- Random surveillance
- Profiling
- Harassment
- Personal use



# Authorized Use

## **Authorized missions include, but are not limited to:**

- Crime and collision scene documentation
- Response to hazardous material incidents
- Public safety and life preservation
- Disaster response and recovery efforts
- Missing person investigations
- Allied agency requests, including Fire
- Missions related to in-progress crimes
- Training
- Creating recruitment or social media related content
- Collaboration with other city departments

# Mission Operations

## General

- Camera(s) to be focused on mission-relevant areas
- UAS will only be operated by certified remote pilots
  - Successfully passed required training
  - Holds FAA Part 107 certification or supervised by Part 107 remote pilot
- All PD mission flight telemetry recorded to DroneSense software
  - Except training or demo flights

# Mission Operations

## **Pre-Planned Mission Request**

- Request made to Program Coordinator or on-duty Captain
- An ongoing “fresh” investigation is not considered pre-planned

## **On-Duty Active Mission Authorization**

- UAS can be deployed during active and emergency incidents
- Remote pilot will notify Watch Commander or supervisor

# Mission Operations

## Indoor Operations

- Limited to emergencies or supervisor approval
- Performed under same standard as On-Duty Active Mission
- When flown indoors, UAS is not governed by FAA regulations

## Training

- Scheduled by Program Coordinator or appointee
  - Monthly hours requirement, may be self-directed within training plan
- Training flights considered pre-authorized

# Data, Civil Rights, and Privacy

## Data Retention and Processing

- Recorded mission data will be evaluated for evidentiary value
- Evidence will follow departmental data retention requirements
- Evidence transferred to physical storage media and/or Evidence.com

## Protection of Rights and Privacy Concerns

- Civil rights and privacy will be always be protected
- All operations will be consistent with local, state, and federal law



# Proposed Policy Edit

- **Under section 613.4 PROGRAM COORDINATOR**
  - Change from "The program coordinator will ensure that policies and procedures conform to current laws, regulations, and best practices and will have the following additional responsibilities:"
  - To "The program coordinator will ensure that policies and procedures conform to current laws, regulations, and best practices as outlined in the UAS Operating Procedures Directive. The program coordinator will have the following additional responsibilities:"

# Reminder: Purpose of Policy and Procedure

- Ensure the safe, efficient, and lawful operation of UAS
- Prioritize *safety* in all missions
- Allow only trained personnel to utilize UAS
- Allow support of first responders in various scenarios
- Focus on mission-specific tasks while adhering to FAA regulations
- Define roles and responsibilities of UAS flight crew members
- Emphasize the importance of safety checks
- Address data retention, privacy, and weather considerations
- Establish flight time limitations to ensure well-being of flight crew



# Equipment

# UAS Equipment

## DJI Drones

*Best reputation of quality while remaining within budget.*

### **Exterior**

- DJI Mavic 3T – thermal imaging

### **Interior**

- DJI Avata

### **Training / Interior / Backup**

- DJI Mini 2

# DJI Mavic 3T

Primary Use: Exterior



Flight Time: 45 minutes

Capabilities: 56x Hybrid zoom / Thermal Camera

# DJI Avata

Primary Use: Interior support



Flight Time: 18 minutes

Capabilities: 150-deg field-of-view / First Person View (FPV) Goggles

# DJI Mini 2



Primary Use: Training and Interior Backup

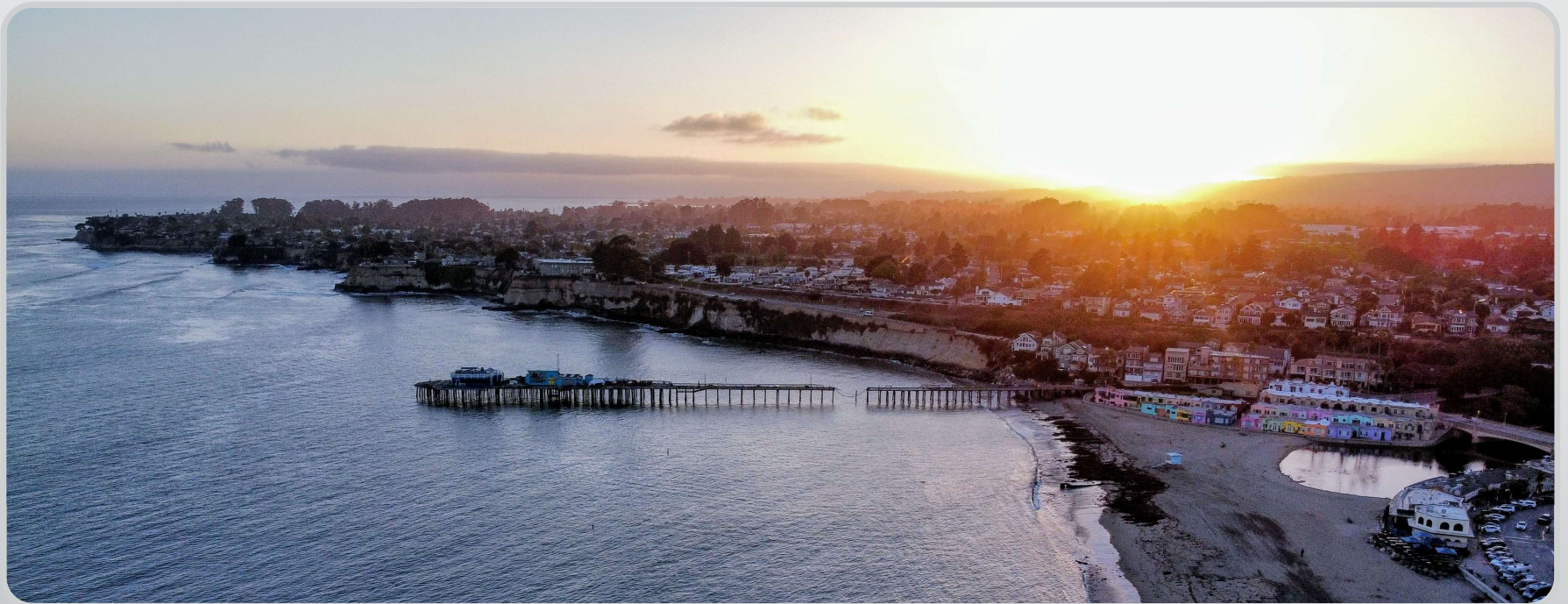
Flight Time: 31 minutes

Capabilities: 4x zoom / Interior flight

# Equipment and Training Funding

- PD Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Fund (SLESF)
- Initial Budget: \$ 15,000
  - Initial equipment purchase
  - Training for 4 remote pilots
  - Training for 2 Program Coordinators
  - Training for 2 Program Trainers
- Periodic funding requests through the Public Safety Foundation
  - With approval from Chief of Police
  - Supplement training and equipment expenses





Video - Celebrate 75 Years