



The Town of Cottage City
3820 40th Avenue,
Cottage City, MD 20722
Phone: (301)-779-2161 Fax: (301) 779-3525

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cottage City Commissioners

FROM: Town Manager

DATE: February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Request for Government Sponsorship Letter – Drone Operations at 3342 Bladensburg Rd.

Executive Summary:

The Town has received a request from Drone Drafting, a vendor based in Brooklyn, NY, seeking a formal letter of government sponsorship. This letter is a federal requirement to allow a drone flight within the restricted airspace (7 nautical miles) of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). The purpose of the flight is to create high-accuracy maps of the rooftop at 3342 Bladensburg Rd (WareSpace) to facilitate the design and installation of a solar array.

Project Justification:

- **Green Energy Support:** The mission directly aids the construction of rooftop solar systems within Cottage City.
- **Technical Need:** Standard satellite imagery and manned aircraft photography do not provide the granular detail necessary for accurate engineering and design.
- **Non-Recreational:** This is a strictly commercial, professional operation that cannot be performed by conventional manned aircraft.

Safety and Regulatory Compliance:

Due to the proximity to DCA, the applicant must adhere to the following strict TSA and FAA protocols:

- **Personnel:** The operation will include a licensed Drone Operator, an onsite communicator, and a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO).
- **Waivers:** The flight is contingent upon the applicant securing a specific FAA/TSA waiver.
- **Security:** The vendor has briefed staff and confirmed they will follow all necessary security precautions for this sensitive airspace.

Staff Recommendations for Disposition:

Staff suggests the Commission consider approving the sponsorship letter with the following stipulations:

1. **Advance Notice:** The applicant must provide the Town with the specific flight date once the federal waiver is granted.
2. **Limited Duration:** The authorization is valid for a single day within a 6-month window.
3. **Local Contacts:** The draft letter must be finalized with the correct local government signatory information.

Action Requested

Finalize the Government Sponsor Letter for the Town Manager's signature to support this green energy initiative

