

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Use of Unassisted Aerial Vehicles]

Ordinance approving the Police Department’s inventory and policy relating to the use of unassisted aerial vehicles, or drones, and making findings consistent with the criteria in State law.

Existing Law

On December 13, 2022, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 257-22, approving the Police Department's Use of Equipment Policy pursuant to AB 481, which is codified at California Government Code Sections 7070 *et seq.* but it does not contain any provisions for UAVs. In March 2024, the voters of the City and County of San Francisco approved Proposition E, which included an authorization for the San Francisco Police Department to use Unassisted Aerial Vehicles (“UAVs,” also known as “drones”) for certain law enforcement purposes.

Amendments to Current Law

If passed, this uncodified ordinance will approve the Police Department’s UAV Inventory and Policy. UAVs operates in the air, which are utilized to enhance the safety of the community and officers by providing air support and situational awareness for law enforcement operations. Under Prop E (SF Admin Code 96I.2(e)(2)) the Department is authorized to use UAV along with or in lieu of vehicle pursuits and to assist with active criminal investigations. UAVs will be used for trainings and simulations, critical incidents, exigent circumstances, search and rescue, missing persons, Crime Scene Investigation (CSI/TCIU), during suspicious device assessments, planned operations, disaster response and community outreach related to vehicle pursuits and active criminal investigations. Technical Services Unit will manage the UAV program.

n:\govern\as2024\2400442\01762878.doc