

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Sheriff's Auxiliary Reserve Air Squadron]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to create the Sheriff's Auxiliary Reserve Air Squadron to support the Sheriff by providing aerial observation of the City, including its coast, public utility transmission and distribution lines, and evacuation routes, in the event of actual or threatened emergency.

Existing Law

Local law establishes the Police and Fire Auxiliary Reserve respectively and assigns to each the duty to prepare against perils to life and property that may be expected to result from enemy attack or sabotage, or from any emergency that may threaten lives and property. (Administrative Code §§7.10 and 7.11.)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would establish the Sheriff's Auxiliary Reserve Air Squadron ("Air Squadron") and assign to the Air Squadron the duty of providing the Sheriff aerial observation support in the event of a threatened or actual emergency, including but not limited to recording and transmitting to the Sheriff live aerial video and audio feed of the City and its coast, evacuation routes, and public utility transmission and distribution lines. This ordinance would require members to register as disaster service workers and deem the Air Squadron to be a part of the Operations Support Fire and Rescue Branch of the City Emergency Management Program.

Background Information

Since approximately 1946, San Francisco Sheriff's Air Squadron ("SFSAS"), an association of volunteer pilots, has served as a reserve air squadron under the direction of the Sheriff's Department and provided air support by flying their personal fixed wing aircraft to prepare for and respond to emergencies. SFSAS has participated in local, state, and federal emergency preparedness training for simulated disasters including earthquakes, fire, terrorist attacks, and coastal enemy invasion. SFSAS' fixed-wing aircraft are equipped to transmit live aerial audio and video feed to the City emergency command center to give local, state, and federal first responders and disaster relief agencies critical bird's-eye views of the City, its evacuation routes, and public utility transmission and distribution lines to identify trouble spots and to facilitate the quick and efficient distribution of critical and limited resources. The Air Squadron has served San Francisco at their own personal expense and without any injury to persons or property for over sixty-seven (67) years. However, to date, the Air Squadron has served

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without enabling legislation or written agreement with the City. The Ordinance would formalize the existing arrangement between the Air Squadron and the City.

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