



100 Years of Service

Menlo Park Fire Protection District

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August 23, 2016

Honorable Mayor Cline and members of the City Council

Regarding your August 23, 2016 meeting, specifically agenda item J-1 – Review and consider an amendment to Menlo Park Municipal Code Section 8.28.130 to prohibit drones and other unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in City Parks (Staff report #16-145-CC).

The Fire District asks that if you decide to recommend to prohibit the use of “drones” at City Parks, that you include, or add, language that exempts public safety, specifically the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The Fire District currently owns several drones and has been approved by the FAA for their conditional use. The unmanned aerial system (UAS), would typically be used for aerial reconnaissance in conjunction with search and rescue or fire operations.

Since the City does not have jurisdiction over the Fire District, we want to make sure that your language and the term “prohibit” does not confuse the general public nor imply that public safety may not use this technology for training or practical purposes associated with improved and critical situational awareness needed during emergency operations.

Thank you

Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief

CC: Fire Board