



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: June 20, 2022

PREPARED BY: Eric T. Werner, Chief of Police

AGENDA ITEM: Public comment on the police use of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) and the draft Maple Grove Departments UAS Policy No. 606

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

None

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Motion to open the council meeting to accept public comment on the police department's draft policy for the use of Unmanned Aerial System.

COMMENTS: Adam Linquist, Commander, Patrol Division

A Maple Grove Police Department UAS press release was posted on the Maple Grove Police Facebook page May 25, 2022, inviting the public to view the UAS draft policy and provide online comments through June 8, 2022. There were a total of 16 direct comments. Additionally, we received four comments by email and one from a vendor.

State Statute requires an opportunity for public comments about the police department's policy prior to purchasing or using a UAS.

Minnesota State Statute 626.19 and 13.82, provides clear direction to law enforcement in the use and data collection of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). That includes the specific authorized use and the storage retrieval and dissemination of all data captured by a UAV. The public safety use under the police department's policy will require the following:

- The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) operator successfully complete the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements and licensing
- Only a trained Pilot -In-Command (PIC) will operate the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)
- A trained visual observer is utilized to assist the Pilot-In-Command (PIC)

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) have been used across the county to help locate missing persons, document crime scenes, and to assist with preventing the loss of life. Police staff utilizing a UAV will be certified by the FAA before program implementation and equipment use.

Note: The terms UAS and UAV are used inter-changably at times in discussions or when reference policy and state statute.

The police department's UAS start-up equipment is estimated at a cost of \$2,500. The police department received a donation of \$2,500 to fund the equipment purchase. The donation was accepted by the city council on December 20, 2021.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Draft Maple Grove Police Department UAS policy 606

Attachment B – Press Release

Attachment C – Facebook Comments

Attachment D – MGPD UAS Email Comments