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CIC 12-1-2021

Public Comments

From: Suzanne Luther < >
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Jennifer Ott <Jennifer.Ott@hayward-ca.gov>
Subject: ACT 21-100

CAUTION: This is an external email. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Ott,

I'm writing to you today to urge you and the CIC and Hayward City Council to approve HPD's use of drones for the safety of our community. With the recent defunding of police and the subsequent huge rise in crime, I feel the authorization for HPD to have and use drones is a NO BRAINER!

Police Departments all around the Bay Area are desperately seeking to hire more officers. They are even offering signing bonuses up to and above \$10,000! The drones are an extremely affordable way to support police in their duties.

I'm aware that privacy is one of the main issues regarding the approval of drones for HPD. But it is painfully obvious that surveillance cameras, body cams and cell phone videos, etc. are everywhere in our society and have been for some time and will never stop being used.

Please give our HPD the support they deserve!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Luther

A Hayward Concerned Citizen

From: TJ <haywardconcernedcitizens2020@gmail.com>

Date: December 1, 2021 at 10:36:32 AM PST

To: Jennifer Ott <Jennifer.Ott@hayward-ca.gov>

Subject: Agenda item, ACT 21-100, 12/1/2021 Council Infrastructure Meeting

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Council Infrastructure Committee Members:

As a member of HAYWARD CONCERNED CITIZENS, I am writing in regards to agenda item ACT 21-100 being discussed this evening. I'm pleased to see the commitment, continued efforts, and follow-through from our police and city staff to develop an acceptable operations policy for the City Council-approved Unmanned Aerial Systems Program.

It is clear from reviewing the meeting documents that there is still voiced concern about privacy issues, but I strongly feel the benefits of having this surveillance technology far outweighs the risk of a privacy breach. I also feel confident that our city staff and HPD have done their due diligence to assure there will be full transparency and accountability in use of the drones, and that any potential policy violations will be fully investigated and addressed.

Nearly every other local city in the Bay Area has immediate access to drones and has successfully deployed them for search and rescue, critical incidents, in-progress burglaries, accident reconstruction, and for the purposes of de-escalation with positive outcomes. Workplaces, media, and civilians ALL freely use types of surveillance technology for various purposes in our city. The city of Hayward already has its own drone for mapping purposes. To my knowledge to date, there have been no voiced privacy concerns about that use of surveillance. Additionally, it is understood that our police cannot (and will not) just arbitrarily deploy drones in our city. HPD also routinely uses body cams. Drones are just another form of that same technology, offering a different perspective as well as keeping our officers and residents safe in potentially volatile situations.

As an advocate committed to ensuring our police have access to all of the necessary resources to keep our community safe, I respectfully encourage your recommendation to council that the latest UAS Operations Policy Manual be approved.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on this matter,
TJ
(H.C.C.)