



## NORTH PLATTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

"To Protect And Serve"

### Memorandum

To: UAV Committee

From: Lisa Citta

Subject: Research, Development, and implementation of drone program

The more you know, the better you can lead. <sup>i</sup> Drones can change the way we police and give us the chance to do too more with less. For an agency smaller in size such as ours, there is great benefit to using drones. From the air, we can get eyes on things we have not been able to in the past. We can monitor traffic, crowds, events, search for missing persons, fleeing suspects and many other things. As a committee, we need to create and implement solid policy and procedure. It is our duty to use this technology effectively but respecting our citizens' expectation of privacy where it exists.

In the unfortunate event of an active shooter at a local school, dispatch can tap into the live feed cameras and we can also deploy the drone for real time video inside the school. Officers responding could have a great advantage to many camera angles and views of what is happening inside the school. Aside from just law enforcement uses, drones can also be used to assist other city departments. Surveying for the street department, checking utility lines for the light and water department and taking photos for the visitor's bureau to help promote our town.



The International Association of Chiefs of Police along with the ACLU released recommendations for departments to follow when implementing drone programs. The following are the recommended guidelines from the IACP<sup>ii</sup>:

- Police should obtain warrants to use drones where subjects have a reasonable expectation of privacy
- Police should not retain images captured by drones unless they are relevant to a crime
- Police should give the public meaningful notice of drone use
- Use of drones by police should be subject to tracking and audits, with accountability for misuse
- Police should not weaponize drones

The ACLU looks at drone technology much the same way we as a committee should. How will we use it? Is this the most cost effective? Has the technology been effective previously? What is the community feedback?<sup>iii</sup>

Our operators will be FAA certified through Part 107. Per FAA regulations, visual line of sight (VLOS) is required unless a waiver is obtained. To keep in line with this requirement, any time a drone is in flight, two people will be required for operation, the remote pilot and the visual observer.

Protecting our citizens right to privacy is a necessity. Using California V. Ciraolo as a guide, drones will only operate and observe things that are open to public view. Unless a situation presents exigent circumstances that would normally not require a search warrant, operators



will get a warrant prior to flight. Drones must not enter the curtilage of the home but can film openly visible areas.<sup>iv</sup>

With no readily accessible K9 unit or close air support, drones are a useful and great economic asset not just to our department but other city departments and our city as a whole. We will utilize these machines with utmost care and all cognizant of our citizens expectation of privacy.

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<sup>i</sup> Begovich, M. (2021) Presentation 4.1 Part 1 UAVs for Law Enforcement Leaders: Ethical and Legal Considerations University of San Diego [6305655 \(blackboardcdn.com\)](#)

<sup>ii</sup> Alderton, M (2018) Module 4 Drones in Police Work and the Future of Law Enforcement [Drones in Police Work and the Future of Law Enforcement \[Updated\] \(autodesk.com\)](#)

<sup>iii</sup> Bubar, B (2021) Presentation 4.3 Public Safety Drone Response University of San Diego [6550548 \(blackboardcdn.com\)](#)

<sup>iv</sup> Begovich, M. (2021) Presentation 4.1 Part 1 UAVs for Law Enforcement Leaders: Ethical and Legal Considerations University of San Diego [6305655 \(blackboardcdn.com\)](#)