



LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION MEDIA RELEASE

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POLICE COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT, MATTHEW JOHNSON'S COMMENTS ON SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM (sUAS)

Los Angeles - The issues and concerns that have been raised are understandable and I thank those who have taken the time to have their voices heard. A lot of thought and research went into drafting the original guidelines and the several changes that have been made to the initial draft are evidence that we take these concerns seriously.

I believe that the guidelines adopted today for a one-year pilot program strikes the right balance between public safety and the safety of our officers on the one hand, and the importance of protecting individual privacy rights on the other. These guidelines establish strict and narrow limitations on how and when these devices may be deployed -- namely for resolving dangerous, high risk tactical situations, and improving situational awareness during natural disasters and catastrophic incidents. There are no weapons capabilities whatsoever on these devices and no facial recognition software. Each and every deployment requires the sign off of a Deputy Chief. Finally, these guidelines promote maximum transparency and accountability with real time reporting of each and every deployment to the Police Commission's Sub-Committee, and frequent reporting to the entire Commission and the Inspector General's Office.

At the end of this one-year pilot program the results will be thoroughly evaluated through additional public hearings before any permanent program is adopted. I am confident that this pilot program will be of great benefit to the safety and security of our City.

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