



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

(714) 741-5104

August 9, 2016

Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Bao Nguyen
Mayor

Steven R. Jones
Mayor Pro Tem

Christopher V. Phan
Council Member

Phat Bui
Council Member

Kris Beard
Council Member

RE: Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report, *Drones: Know Before You Fly*

Dear Judge Margines:

The City of Garden Grove has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report, *Drones: Know Before You Fly*. In compliance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the City has responded to each of the findings and recommendations included in the report. Each of the findings and recommendations is listed below in italics, followed by the City's response.

Response to Findings

F.1. Recreational drones have greatly increased in number since December 2015 and it is probable their unregulated use will pose significant threats to public safety and privacy in Orange County cities and unincorporated areas.

The City of Garden Grove agrees with this finding.

F.2. With the exception of the recent Federal Aviation Administration registration rule, recreational drone owners are largely self-policed which leads to a wide range of behavior.

The City of Garden Grove agrees this finding.

F.3. Most of the cities and unincorporated areas of the County of Orange do not have a drone ordinance, nor do they have any immediate plans to enact an ordinance in the near future.

The City of Garden Grove agrees this finding.

F.4. Most of the cities provide no educational programs for public awareness of the safety issues connected to recreational drones.

The City of Garden Grove agrees this finding.

F.5. Some Orange County cities, despite recognizing potential issues with drones, are awaiting drone-related legislative action or other guidance by the State of California or FAA before enacting local ordinances.

The City of Garden Grove agrees this finding.

F.6. The FAA-required registration of recreational drones provides a useful tool for local enforcement of drone ordinances.

The City of Garden Grove does not have enough information to agree or disagree with this finding.

F.7. Orange County cities have not established a procedure for reporting drone incidents, which results in under-reporting of drone safety and privacy events.

The City of Garden Grove agrees with this finding.

Response to Recommendations

R.1. Each City Council should direct its City Attorney to provide a report to the city's police department and City Council on existing laws that can be applied to the use of recreational drones in the city's jurisdiction by December 30, 2016. (F.2., F.3., F.5., F.6.)

The City of Garden Grove has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will implement it in the future, prior to December 30, 2016.

R.2. Each City should adopt a recreational drone ownership and operation ordinance, with regulations similar to those found in Los Angeles City ordinance #183912, by March 31, 2017, to the extent not preempted or superseded by Federal law or Federal Regulations. (F.1., F.2., F.3., F.5., F.6.)

The City of Garden Grove has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will implement it in the future. A proposed ordinance will be presented to the Garden Grove City Council for consideration prior to March 31, 2017.

R.3. Each City should inform its citizens about laws and ordinances that apply to recreational drone operators through print media, city-related websites, social media sites and/or public forums by March 31, 2017. (F.4., F.6.)

The City of Garden Grove has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will implement it in the future, prior to March 31, 2017.

R.4. Each City should establish and publish on its website a point of contact for drone-related citizen complaints by December 30, 2016. (F.7.)

The City of Garden Grove has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will implement it in the future, prior to December 30, 2016. The City's online citizen reporting form will be modified to accommodate this purpose.

R.5. Each City should post FAA drone ownership and operation educational links on city-related websites, newsletters, and flyers by December 30, 2016. (F.4.)

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implement it in the future prior to December 30, 2016.

R.9. The County and each City should formally gather data on recreational drone incidents within their jurisdictions and review these data annually and report results publicly. The first analysis and publications should occur within 1 year of the publication of this report. (F.1., F.2., F.3., F.7.)

The City of Garden Grove has not yet implemented this recommendation, but will implement it in the future. The City's new Spillman computer aided dispatch and records management system provides the public with the ability to access a variety of police incident information. The City will create drone specific call for service codes to track drone incidents and make data available to the public. Drone incident information will also be incorporated into an annual report published on the City's website.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's report. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Maria Stipe, Deputy City Manager, at (714) 741-5106 or by email at marias@ci.garden-grove.ca.us.

Respectfully,

Bao Nguyen
Mayor

C: Orange County Grand Jury