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Memorandum

To: Leon W. Todd, Executive Director

From: Barbara Cooley, Research and Policy Analyst

Date: March 13, 2025

RE: Airborne Assessment Team SOI

MPD responded to FPC questions concerning this new SOI as follows:

1. Can you please provide the UAS team budget and how this was funded?

The budget for this program is still being developed and the initial equipment was purchased utilizing asset forfeiture funding. *According to MPD's February 26 Asset Forfeiture presentation to the Council, \$604,194 was available for equipment and supply purchases during 2025.*



Asset Forfeiture
Presentation (2).pdf

2. Is this SOI modeled after another jurisdiction's policy?

This SOI is modeled after the Internal Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) model policy.

3. How many MPD members/staff are currently in the Airborne Assessment Team? How many will there when it is fully staffed?

There is currently one full time member and a second part-time member who assists the full time member. The plan is to start the program as a pilot project before ultimately having 4 full time

pilots and 14 or more district patrol officers to assume secondary flight duties if the pilot program is successful.

4. How many Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones does MPD currently have? What types? Does it anticipate getting more soon? If so, how many and what types?

MPD currently has 8 drones.

- 2 tethered Fotokite drones deployed from vehicles purchased in 2020.
- 2 Skydio X10s (for exterior operations, crash reconstruction, crime scene documentation and analysis, etc.)
- 2 Skydio S2s (for crash reconstruction, crime scene documentation, etc.)
- 2 DJI Avatas (for interior operations, warrant service, etc.)
- MPD is also looking into making purchases of additional drones for field testing purposes and to equip patrol operations.

5. The policy prohibits the use of drone-collected data/information in any manner that would utilize facial recognition software. Why did MPD decide to include this prohibition?

MPD does not own any software that utilizes facial recognition. One of the concerns the public has is UAS technology can be used with facial recognition software, and we wanted to be transparent with the public in alerting them we will not be using it in this manner with our UAS program.

6. What are the principal types of incidents that MPD anticipates using drones for?

MPD anticipates using the drones in accordance with the authorized use and restrictions on use of UAS section in the SOI that states they can be utilized for but not limited to the following:

- Land and waterborne search, rescue, and recovery operations (such as critical missing cases, shoreline and boating mishaps, drowning victims, etc.).
- Port and critical infrastructure security (such as monitoring temporarily established cruise ship docks as required by federal Vessel or Facility Security Plans, response to incidents involving hazardous materials, power and water infrastructure security).
- Active threat response to rapidly locate threats.
- Planned and unplanned event management in accordance with SOP 910 Civil Disturbance and Crowd Management to ensure crowd safety with minimal uniformed presence, identify safe ingress / egress routes at large events, direct resources during street takeovers, etc.
- Investigative evidence collection (e.g., crime scene, crash reconstruction such as 3-D reconstruction and 2-D mapping for court room presentation, etc.).
- In support of patrol operations with authorization of the team commander (such as foot pursuits, warrant service, entries in progress, shots fired complaints, event planning and deployment, training, recruiting, public relations, etc.).

- Counter UAS operations with authorization of the team commander (such as locating subjects actively engaged in the use of UAS technology illegally and minimize threats posed by them, etc.).
- In support of other City of Milwaukee departments with authorization of the team commander.