

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

January 24, 2017

TRANSPARENCY REGARDING NEW TECHNOLOGY

On Thursday, January 12, the Sheriff announced implementation of a program to use “unmanned aircraft systems” to assist Deputies in emergency situations. The announced program would deploy the remote-controlled flying cameras in specific circumstances: “search and rescue, explosive ordinance detection, hazardous materials incidents, disaster response, arson fires, hostage rescue, and barricaded, armed suspects.”

In such circumstances, these devices can greatly aid law enforcement in protecting the public and deputies and their use deserves strong support. However, past experience has led to valid concern that the devices, sometimes called drones, can be used for more controversial purposes. Drones have been used to carry weapons by the military and so even the name is a matter of debate. Flying cameras, whether remotely controlled or not, have in the past been used for warrantless surveillance and sometimes without notice to the public.

Accordingly, it is important that such a program be carried out in as transparent a manner as possible. We thank the Sheriff for informing the public of his plans and believe that the public should have the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with law enforcement about the use of this new technology.

I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- 1) Direct the Office of Inspector General to gather information regarding the program and report that information to the Civilian Oversight Commission;
- 2) Request that the Civilian Oversight Commission receive the report of the Inspector General and supplement it with input from the Sheriff’s Department and any other source it deems appropriate, as well as public comment;
- 3) Request that the Civilian Oversight Commission provide the Board and the Sheriff with an evaluation of the program reflecting any recommendations it has as well as feedback on public comments regarding the program.

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MOTION

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KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____