

TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY

**Drone Ordinance
Study Session
October 8, 2015**



Key Questions

- Does Mayor & Council agree with the division of regulations proposed in the ordinance?
- Does Mayor & Council agree with the way they are regulated in each category?
- Does Mayor & Council want to go forward with adopting this as an ordinance?”





Drone Video



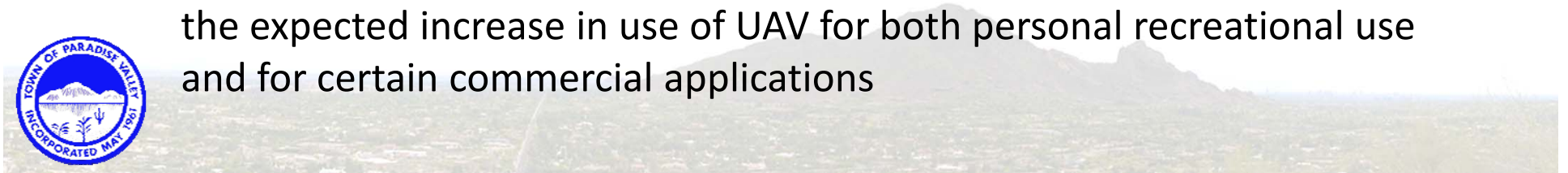
Drone Ordinance Background

- Staff would like Council to review and provide comments on the draft drone ordinance
- This ordinance would be added as Article 10-12 to the Town Code
- A first review of an initial draft ordinance occurred at the Council's May 28, 2015 work study meeting
- Staff has received comments from Council Members, some residents, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) users
- Staff has also reviewed ordinances of other municipalities and met with City of Phoenix staff regarding their draft ordinance
- All these contacts have lead to changes to the draft ordinance



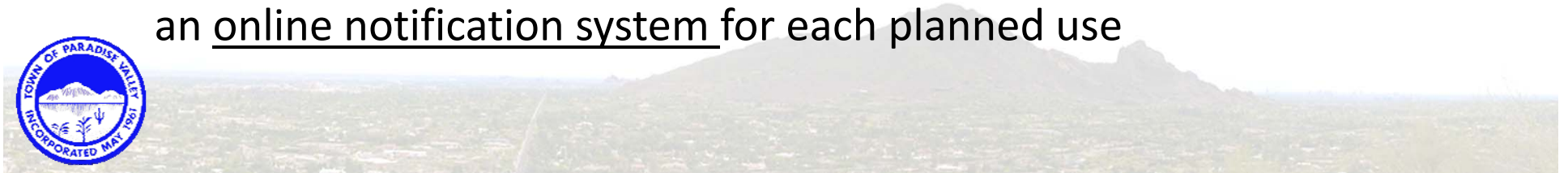
Drone Ordinance Background

- Although the Federal Aviation Administration is still in the process of promulgating regulations concerning UAVs, many states and a few municipalities have adopted their own regulations for UAVs; and many more are interested in adopting regulations
- The FAA has a primary concern with avoiding conflicts between UAV and other forms of regulated flight; the Town's concerns are centered more on local safety and privacy concerns
- The draft ordinance attempts to balance the competing interests of residents who are concerned about the potential safety and privacy issues connected with safe and appropriate use of UAV technology, and the expected increase in use of UAV for both personal recreational use and for certain commercial applications



Drone Ordinance Changes

- The commercial UAV community was made aware of the desire of the Town staff and Police Department to be able to have knowledge in advance of a planned commercial UAV flight
- The UAV commercial group suggested that an online notification system would be much simpler and less costly than the issuance of a single use permit for each planned commercial UAV use
- One of the significant changes from the prior draft ordinance has been to move from a single event permit process to having a one-time registration by each commercial UAV user with the PVPD and an online notification system for each planned use



Drone Ordinance Changes

Why an online registry?

- Neighboring property owners who may see a UAV near their property and complain about such use, would be able to check the online registry or call the PD Dispatch to find out the purpose of the commercial use, the time of such use, and who to contact if they have any questions
- This would appear to be an open and easy system to use for tracking and monitoring UAV use within the Town
- Identification of responsible party if accidental damage occurs



Drone Ordinance Changes

- Private Property
 - Another significant change - consent of private property owners before a UAV user could fly over the private property, and lacking such consent, this type of UAV use would be considered a form of trespass and a violation of Town Code.
 - This suggestion also came from some of the commercial UAV users, who have stated that they do not need to fly over neighboring properties to do their commercial aerial photography, mapping, etc.
- Public Property
 - Allowance made for those times though when a UAV user needs or desires to fly over the public ROW or Town land
 - Such requests subject to the existing special event permit process



Basic Provisions

- Commercial Use - Commercial users must first (1) register with PVPD; (2) providing identifying info of the aircraft used; and (3) make an online notification of the date, time, location and contact info of the commercial user
- Recreational Use – A PV property owner may use an UAV use on their own property as long as such use is at a height of less than 500’ and is not in violation of other criteria referenced below
- Emergency/Investigatory Use – Emergency use is allowed by a “law enforcement agency” in response to an emergency situation or after obtaining a warrant based upon probable cause that criminal activity is occurring
 - Emergency use includes code enforcement activities
 - Exception in more limited than Phoenix Draft Ordinance



Basic Provisions

General Prohibitions and Penalties

- An UAV shall not be used in a careless or reckless manner that poses an apparent or actual threat of harm danger to persons or property
- An UAV shall not be used to transmit any visual images or recordings of any person or property where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy (inside a residence of an enclosed yard is a defined “privacy” area)
- Penalties for violation shall be a Class 1 Misdemeanor or punishable under the provisions of Article 1-9 of the Town Code (which suggests that initial violations be charged as a civil violation with a progression to a criminal charge in the event of repeat offenses)



Comments/Questions?

