



ILLEGAL FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT UPDATE

Police Department

**BUDGET ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION
APRIL 10, 2025**

RiversideCA.gov

1

BACKGROUND

- **December 17, 2024** – City Council approved use of drones for fireworks enforcement, funding of advanced night operations training, and purchase of drones
- **February 25, 2025** – City Council introduced ordinance amending RMC Section 1.18.10 to include Social Host Ordinance and allow for use of drones for fireworks enforcement, subsequently adopted March 11, 2025
- **March 25, 2025** – City Council authorized supplemental appropriation of \$86,106.93 from Measure Z Fund Balance for purchase of drones and advanced training for drone pilots



2

RiversideCA.gov

2

DISCUSSION

- RFD and RPD collaborated and recommended the following enhancements for the Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Program:
 - Utilize drone technology to support enforcement; and
 - Amend RMC 1.18 to incorporate drone technology and include a social host ordinance
- City Council approved recommended enhancements for implementation in July 2025



3

RiversideCA.gov

3

DISCUSSION

- Amending RMC 1.18 regarding administrative penalties for violations of City's Fireworks Laws:
 - Inclusion of social host ordinance makes discharge of fireworks unlawful for any social host to allow by invitation or consent
 - Revised to hold parent or guardian of juveniles liable when found in violation
 - Incorporates the use of drone technology for fireworks enforcement



4

RiversideCA.gov

4

DISCUSSION

- Utilizing drone technology:
 - Certified Drone pilots will conduct flights during the week leading up to and on July 4th
 - Drone Pilots will obtain video evidence of illegal fireworks activity and accurately determine the location from which fireworks are being discharged
 - Written reports will detail observations, enabling the issuance of administrative citations based on evidence



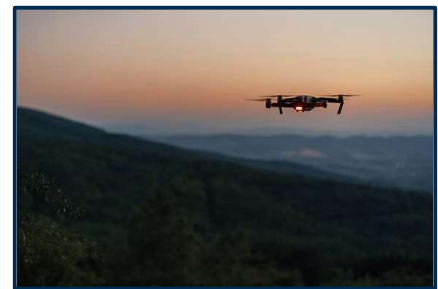
5

RiversideCA.gov

5

DISCUSSION

- RPD requires the following equipment and training:
 - Purchase of additional RPD drones for Citywide coverage
 - Advanced three-day training course focusing on nighttime operations for drone pilots
 - Total cost of \$86,106.93



6

RiversideCA.gov

6

RECOMMENDATION

That the Budget Engagement Commission receive and file the Illegal Fireworks Enforcement Program Update including the purchase of small, unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and an advanced training course for drone pilots in the total amount of \$86,106.93 utilizing Measure Z Funds.



7

RiversideCA.gov