

MEASURE Z – REPLACEMENT OF POLICE HELICOPTER WITH A PUBLIC SAFETY SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT

Riverside Police Department
Aviation Support Unit

City Council
October 17, 2017

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BACKGROUND

RPD currently has three MD 500 helicopters

1. N550JM – 34 years old, 11,518 flight hrs. (921,440 miles)
2. N911RP - 21 years old, 12,834 flight hrs. (1,026,720 miles)
3. N951RP - 8 years old, 5,226 flight hrs. (418,080 miles)

Cost to maintain all three over next 5 years: \$2,650,619



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DISCUSSION

The Traditional Method

1. Flying at lower altitudes in a helicopter (500' -1000' AGL)
2. Broadcast observations once on scene
3. Faster response time than ground units, but must be overhead
4. Less dependent on technology, especially during daytime



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FIXED WING ADVANTAGES

1. Flying at higher altitudes (4,000' -5,000' AGL) in fixed wing
2. "Eyes on scene" in a matter of seconds without being overhead due to high power camera



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FIXED-WING AIRPLANE



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T206H IS DUAL MISSION CAPABLE

- 1. Primary Mission** – Surveillance, able to stay aloft at higher altitudes and further away for longer. Use of Downlink system during planned events benefits Command Staff on ground.
- 2. Secondary Mission** – Patrol coverage, from higher less noise sensitive altitude using technology of camera and Churchill. Downlink for ongoing incidents.



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PURCHASE COSTS

1. Based on research done in the past 2 years, a new helicopter mission equipped would cost around \$5.5 million.
2. A new airplane would cost around \$1.8 million equipped for the mission we have described.
3. The 2011 airplane costs is \$903,788 completely outfitted for our missions.
4. Florida Highway Patrol spent \$825,000 on same mission equipment in July 2017 (not including aircraft purchase price).



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OPERATING COSTS

1. Direct Operating Cost (DOC) includes, fuel, oil, standard maintenance, including overhauls
2. **Helicopter** DOC \$415 - \$462/hr.
3. **Fixed wing** DOC **\$190/hr.**
4. By using the airplane for 33% of current missions, ASU saves \$101,270/year in DOC



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TRAINING

1. **2 of 5 pilots** flying for RPD are certified to fly a fixed wing aircraft. A 3rd pilot could be certified in a few weeks. The 4th and 5th pilots could be trained in a couple months.
2. 2 mechanics are certified to work on fixed wing aircraft and would only need update training on the type specific aircraft.
3. Initial training costs more than absorbed by 1st year DOC savings.



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TACTICAL FLIGHT OFFICE



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WESCAM MX10

1. MX10 coverage 6-9 miles at 4000' – 5000' AGL
2. Color and Infrared camera system



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IR IMAGE @ 2.2 MILES AND 2,959' AGL



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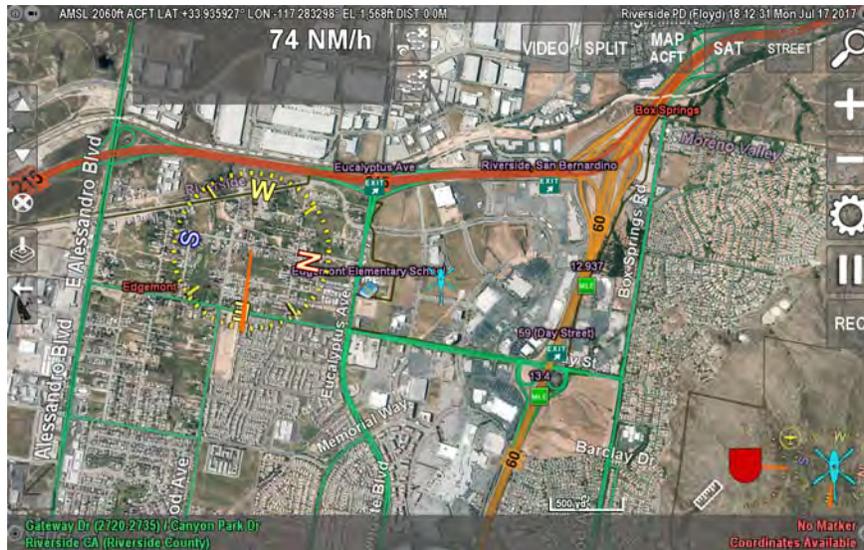
COLOR IMAGE @ 0.6 MI. 2,800' AGL



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CHURCHILL NAVIGATION ARS



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VISILINK DOWNLINK SYSTEM W/MOBILE COMMAND CENTER ANTENNA



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Declare as a surplus the Police MD500E helicopter, Asset No. X000011.0000;
2. Authorize the marketing and sale of Police MD500E helicopter, Asset No. X000011.0000 by June 2018 at fair market value, with proceeds from the sale estimated to be approximately \$400,000;
3. Increase estimated General Fund miscellaneous revenues in the amount of \$400,000 and authorize an offsetting appropriation in the same amount to Police Department account #3105000-462200;



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RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT'D)

4. Authorize the allocation of \$135,000 from the Police Department Evidence Trust Account No. 0000721-225170 to Police Department Administrative Services Expenditure Account No. 3105000-462200;
5. Authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$65,000 from State Asset Forfeiture Account No. 0000721-225110 to Police Department Asset Forfeiture Expenditure Account No. 3145200-462200;
6. Approve a re-allocation of \$382,870 in the Measure Z funds from Police vehicles to the Police airplane; and
7. Approve the purchase of an airplane from Arrowdata LLC, from Bend, Oregon, through an Aircraft Brokerage Agreement with Air Bear Tactical Aircraft, of Santa Ana, California, in the amount not to exceed \$982,870, in accordance with Purchasing Resolution 22576, Section 201(c).

