

**REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

For Meeting of: February 28, 2017

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Discuss a proposed Police Department Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) program and provide staff direction on proceeding with the program.

**BACKGROUND**

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), also called "unmanned aerial vehicles" (UAVs) or drones, have been in use by the military for years as a lower-cost, safer alternative to manned aircraft. The business community is incorporating UASs at a rapid pace. Law enforcement nationwide has begun to utilize UASs for the same reasons as the military: more cost effective and safer than manned aircraft and, in many ways, more versatile than manned aircraft. A number of law enforcement agencies in Washington State have already launched UAS programs.

Staff envisions UAS use in Pullman in the following ways: search & rescue, coordination of traffic (such as post-game traffic for WSU home football games), document outdoor crime scenes, document major traffic collisions, tactical reconnaissance, tactical deployment (SWAT), weather event reconnaissance (flooding), assist Fire Department with firefighting coordination and tactics, etc.

After this topic was reported in the media locally, WSU staff contacted us about exploring the possibility of collaborating with us on the development of a UAS program. Staff has since met with an Assistant Professor in Computer Science who specializes in artificial intelligence, machine learning, autonomous control, multi-agent systems, and robotics. WSU wishes to conduct research and provide assistance on the development and use of UASs by Pullman PD.

Staff understands that privacy issues will be a concern of the public. Consequently, staff proposes to conduct public meetings to solicit public input on UAS policy development. This was the same approach utilized in 2012 prior to installing the grant-funded safety cameras at Adams Mall. In that instance, public input helped shape camera policy and served to gain public comfort with, and support of, the cameras.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Provide staff direction on proceeding with an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAS) program, to include seeking public input on UAS policy.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

\$ 9,500

001.2100.521.22.35.05

BARS Code Number

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**SUBMITTED BY**

**ATTACHMENTS FOR COUNCIL REVIEW/ACTION**

Name: Gary Jenkins  
Title: Chief of Police  
Department: Police

1. Sample UAS policy

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**REVIEWED BY**

	Initial	Date
Department Head	_____	_____
City Supervisor	_____	_____
City Attorney (As To Form)	_____	_____