

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), often referred to as drones, have become increasingly popular in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently proposed rules for the commercial use of UAS, setting the stage for increased commercial use of these systems; and

WHEREAS, while the FAA can bring civil penalties against commercial entities that recklessly or carelessly operate UAS, they are prohibited from bringing criminal charges; and

WHEREAS, the FAA and local law enforcement agencies engage in parallel enforcement actions against pilots who violate FAA rules when operating manned aircraft, as the State Aeronautics Act imposes criminal penalties for violations that are similar to the FAA's rules; and

WHEREAS, this is the model for enforcement that should also be applied to UAS operators in California who operate these systems in a reckless or careless manner; and

WHEREAS, California's definition for "aircraft" only applies to manned aircraft, and does not include UAS; and

WHEREAS, because of this, law enforcement agencies in California have no ability to bring charges against UAS operators who violate FAA rules; and

WHEREAS, updating the state's definition of "aircraft" to include UAS would enable local law enforcement agencies to engage in parallel enforcement actions with the FAA against reckless UAS operators;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015 - 2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for or SPONSORSHIP of legislation that would update California's definition of "aircraft" found in the State Aeronautics Act to include Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).

PRESENTED BY


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY



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MAR 24 2015

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