

Santa Rosa Police Department UAS Program

Background

- FAA Regulations for Commercial UAS adopted in 2016
- UAS use in public safety is accelerating rapidly
 - 347 agencies by 2017
 - Many California public safety agencies now using UAS or working to implement programs

UAS Benefits

- Improved safety and decision-making
- Broad Range of applications
 - Emergency/Disaster response
 - Law Enforcement
 - Search and Rescue
 - Fire Suppression/Prevention
 - Other governmental uses
- Safe Operation & Ease of Use

Where do Drones Fit?

Navigable Airspace

1000ft and above (Ciraolo/FAA)

500ft and above (FAA)

400ft (Riley and model aircraft limit)

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83ft (Causby)

35ft 🔷 🏠

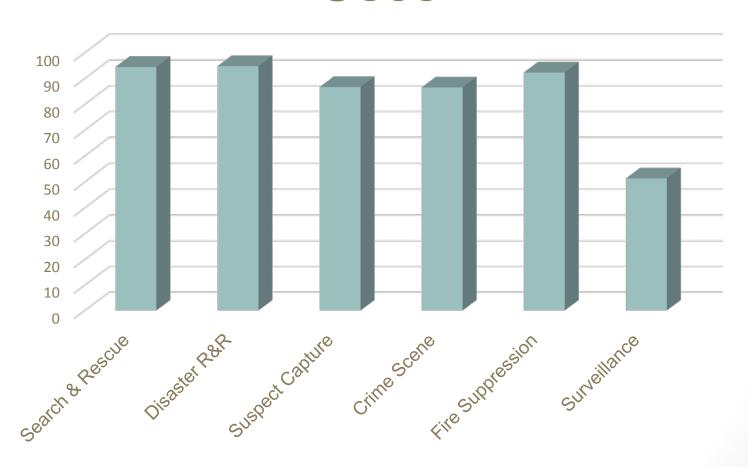
Graphic: Gregory McNeal

BROOKINGS

The Process

- Multi-Departmental Needs Analysis
- Research and Thesis about earning public trust for UAS use
- City Leaders
- CAB
- Community Events
- Social Media / Traditional Media
- Online Survey

Approval Rate for UAS Uses



Current Status

- Developed Policy Documents
- FAA approval
- Purchased 2 small consumer-grade UAS
- Selecting SRPD staff as remote pilots
- Developing training program

Proposed Uses

- Search and Rescue
- High-Risk Incidents
- Search/Arrest Warrants
- Searches for Criminal Suspects
- Crime Scene Documentation
- Fire Suppression/Prevention
- Disaster Response/Recovery
- Community Presentations/Outreach

What's off limits?

- Random or General Surveillance Activities
 - Warrantless Long-term surveillance
- Violating the Constitution, federal, state, local laws or department policies

First Mission



Goals

- Build initial UAS Team
- Develop a robust program establishing Santa Rosa as a 21st Century leader in the field
- Maintain transparency where we can
- Add night flight/Infrared capability

• Questions?