

Section 1020 DRONES

1020.01 Purpose.

Subd. 1 Invasion of Privacy. It is the purpose of this Section to provide the residence of the City protection from invasion of privacy due to the rapid implementation of drone technology being put into use by individuals, entities, and law enforcement agencies.

Subd. 2 Public Safety Concern. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles also pose an unreasonable public safety concern to other aircraft or objects in the air and to City residents and their property on the ground in the event of drone malfunction, loss of control or other inability to sustain flight as intended.

1020.02 Definition. Drone means a powered, aerial vehicle that:

- A. Does not carry a human;
- B. Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift;
- C. Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely; and
- D. Can be expendable or recoverable.

1020.03 Prohibition. No person, entity, governmental unit or law enforcement agency may operate a drone within the airspace of the City.

1020.04 Exceptions. This Section does not prohibit the use or operation of a drone in the City's airspace if:

- A. A law enforcement agency first obtains a warrant authorizing its use;
- B. A law enforcement agency determines, under particular circumstances, that there is immediate danger of death or serious injury to any person;
- C. Is operated only within the boundaries of an individual's real property;
- D. Licensed operators under contract with property owners give prior notification to the Le Sueur County Sheriff's Department; or
- E. Council-approved events.

1020.05 Penalty. Use or operation of a drone within the airspace of the City in violation of this Section shall be a misdemeanor, punishable, in accordance with state law.