



CITY *of* CALABASAS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

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**DATE:** OCTOBER 30, 2017

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

**FROM:** JAMES JORDAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY *JJ*

**SUBJECT:** INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2017-354 TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL CHAPTER TO TITLE 9 OF THE CALABASAS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO REGULATIONS ON THE OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS DRONES, TO MITIGATE RISKS TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY AND TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM THE HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR OPERATION

**MEETING**

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 8, 2017

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**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

The Public Safety Commission recommends (5-0) introducing Ordinance No. 2017-354 to add Chapter 9.10 to Title 9 of the Calabasas Municipal Code, regulating the operation of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly known as drones, within the city.

**BACKGROUND:**

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones have become more prevalent in recent years. In June 2016 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released new rules for the operation of UAS. According to the sheriff's department, they do not have the ability to cite an operator of a UAS for violating the FAA rules.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

This ordinance doesn't address ownership or registration of UAS. The FAA has asserted its regulatory authority in that matter. This ordinance concerns ground level regulation of UAS. Drones continue to interfere in emergency operations across the state. The Fire Department told the PSC that all air operations are suspended when an unauthorized UAS enters the incident operational area. This can and has caused many problems for wildfire tactics and operations. The ordinance codifies the FAA rules thereby allowing the sheriff to issue a citation to drone operators in violation of the FAA rules. The separation distances required to be maintained from emergency vehicles (with siren or emergency lights operational) and emergency incidents will provide a needed buffer for the safety of the public and first responders. The separation from public buildings and schools provides a safety area for the public and school children.

**FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

None

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

It is requested that the City Council introduce Ordinance No. 2017-354 that adds Chapter 9.10 to the Calabasas Municipal Code.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Ordinance No. 2017-354