



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Ms. Lydia Granier, Secretary to the Board

From: Todd Bettison, Chief etroit of Police, Detroit Police Department

Date: March 18, 2026

Re: **Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) Executive Summary**

On Thursday, March 19, 2026, the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) will receive the Community Input Over Government Surveillance (CIOGS) Specification Report for Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) equipment. I spoke with Board Secretary Lydia Garnier, who requested that an Executive Summary be provided to the board to resolve any preliminary questions regarding the CIOGS report. Below is an Executive Summary of the CIOGS Specification Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Specification Report is to comply with Section 17-5-451 through 17-5-459 of Community Input of Government Surveillance.
- A previous Specification Report was completed and approved by the Board of Police Commissioners for Drone use with the Detroit Fire Department in September 2024.
- This expands the use of drones to Drone First Responders, Tactical Drones and Visual Line of Sight Drones.
- The Specification Report is not policy; a draft of the policy is in progress and will be submitted in April.
- The Specification Report identifies the Civil Rights / Liberties Impact and any safeguard measures to mitigate any adverse impacts with strong policies, presumption against surveillance, and data minimization.
- Auditing and Oversight: Highlights include:
 - The Chief of Police will appoint a program coordinator who will be responsible for the management of the UAV program.
 - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires reporting of any accident or incident resulting in injury to be reported to them within ten (10) days.



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- An operator, or Remote Pilot in Command (RPIC) will possess and maintain an FAA Part 107A Remote Pilot Certificate with a small UAV rating.
- RPICs have the absolute authority to refuse a flight based upon weather conditions, aircraft limitations, physical conditions, site conditions, FAA regulations, applicable law, or any other reason that the RPIC believes will affect the safety of the flight.
- Detroit Police Department will include the UAV in the annual Surveillance Technology and Surveillance Use Reports. Additionally, a usage report will be sent to BOPC on a weekly basis and all other documentation shall be provided upon request.

Should you have further questions please feel free to contact Deputy Chief Mark Bliss, in the Crime Strategies Bureau at (313) 701-0838, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

TODD A. BETTISON
Chief of Police

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