



PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY IN WEST HOLLYWOOD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the drone program in West Hollywood?

The drones will be used exclusively for emergency response by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, such as search and rescue operations, barricaded suspect incidents, high risk tactical operations, disaster response, pursuit tracking, active shooter incidents, special events, and video/photographic documentation of crime scenes or traffic. The drone program will not be used for routine surveillance of the public. The intent of the drone program is to enhance situational awareness and de-escalation techniques, and optimize efficiency and resources.

2. How will the fixed real-time cameras be used?

The fixed real-time cameras are intended to enhance public safety by providing video footage to assist law enforcement during emergencies and investigations. The City's cameras will be used to assist in resolving crimes that have occurred and will provide real-time information to the Sheriff's Department on calls for service. Fixed real-time cameras will only be utilized by authorized personnel at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

3. What is the Real-Time Watch Center?

The Real-Time Watch Center, located at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, will analyze footage from the drones and cameras, coordinate emergency response, and improve situational awareness for public safety personnel.

4. How will privacy be protected with these technology advancements?

The program is designed with privacy in mind. Drones will only be activated during emergencies, and data collected will be handled in accordance with strict privacy guidelines by authorized personnel at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

5. How long will the pilot program last?

The pilot program is set for one year, having been approved by the West Hollywood City Council on July 15, 2024. Its effectiveness will be evaluated one year after the implementation of the items.

6. How will community feedback be gathered during the pilot program?

The City plans to hold community meetings in November and December 2024 to share information about the programs as well as hear feedback from the community. In addition, any feedback about the program can be sent to safety@weho.org.

7. Will the drones be operated by law enforcement or a third party?

The drones will be operated by trained Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department law enforcement personnel who are certified to ensure safety and compliance with all regulations and will also be monitored by a third-party vendor for additional safety measures and to comply with drone flight regulations.

8. How can the community stay informed about the outcomes of the Public Safety Technology pilot program?

Community members can stay updated through the City of West Hollywood's official website at go.weho.org/saferweho.