



To the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Members:

The following correspondence is be transmitted to document the usage of unmanned aircraft systems by Dallas Fire-Rescue in accordance with Government Code Section 423.008. The Drone Unit is operating as part of the Fire Investigation and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Division. All members of this unit are licensed peace officers. Development of the Dallas Fire-Rescue Drone Unit started in 2019, but it did not officially start until November 2, 2022. The unit has a total of 8 drones at our disposal to deploy for emergency operations.

Since the official inception of the Drone Unit, Dallas Fire-Rescue has flown a total of 34 flights. 19 of the flights were conducted for training purposes only. 16 of those training flights were conducted at our training facility located at 5000 Dolphin Rd, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75223. Those training flights were conducted on the listed dates: 10/06/2022 from 10:00am to 11:30am, 10/10/2022 from 12:07pm to 1:18pm, October 11, 2022 from 1:17pm to 1:27pm, October 12, 2022 from 7:51pm to 8:56pm, October 18, 2022 from 10:23am to 10:52am, November 5, 2022 from 8:55am to 11:19am, November 9, 2022 from 11:28am to 12:03pm, December 21, 2022 from 10:18am to 10:34am and December 31, 2022 from 10:43am to 12:05pm. 3 of the training flights were conducted at a remote location located at 4616 Langdon Rd, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75241. The location is owned by Pioneer Frozen Foods. Dallas Fire-Rescue obtained permission to fly at the location from management staff at the facility. The location was used to conduct nighttime training flights. The location has a large field near the structure that does not have exterior lights installed. The flights at the listed location were conducted on November 16, 2022, from 6:00pm to 9: 00pm.

The remaining 15 flights were conducted at active fire scenes. The flights were conducted to assist Incident Command with the efficient extinguishment of the structure fires by aiding in the identification of hot spots. Incident Command utilized the livestream video feed from the drone to guide firefighters directly to the hot spots as they were identified. Two flights were conducted at a 3-Alarm structure fire that occurred at 2505 Turtle Creek Blvd, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75219. The flights took place on December 1, 2022, from 1:02am to 1:40am and from 9:40am to 10:18am. Three flights were conducted at a 4-Alarm structure fire that occurred at 5325 Bent Tree Forest Dr Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75248. The flights were conducted on December 21, 2022, from 10:54am to 11:28am, 2:40pm to 3:06pm and from 3:37pm to 4:40pm. One flight was conducted at a 1- Alarm structure fire that occurred at 6466 Royal Lane Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75230. The flight took place on December 22, 2022, from 1:39pm to 1:53pm. 9 flights were conducted at a 3-Alarm that occurred at 9306 W. Jefferson Blvd, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75211. 2 of the flights took place on December 27, 2022, from 8:55am to 12:20pm and 9:41am to 11:15am. 4 more flights were conducted 9306 W. Jefferson Blvd on December 28, 2022, from 9:10am to 10:44am, 11:01am to 11:15am, 2:08pm to 2:41pm and from 9:43pm to 9:57pm. Finally, 3 flights were conducted at 9306 W. Jefferson Blvd on December 29, 2022, from 8:58am to 2:06am, 10:28am to 11:10am and from 2:03pm to 12:13am.

DALLAS FIRE-RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Fire Investigation, UAS & EOD Bureau

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NOTAMs (Notice to Air Men) were issued for all the UAS flights conducted by Dallas Fire-Rescue. The NOTAM numbers are recorded on the attached copies of flight logs for each UAS used to conduct the drone operations. None of the drone flights conducted by Dallas Fire-Rescue were conducted as part of a criminal investigation. No flights were conducted by Dallas Fire-Rescue for any type of law enforcement operation. The only information collected by Dallas Fire-Rescue during the listed flights were videos to document the structure damage that was sustain during the fire and firefighter operations.

The cost to purchase the drones, batteries and accessories in our fleet came to total of \$47,651.03. The cost to purchase the software (Axon Air by Dronesence) that allows pilots to livestream video feed from the drone on a secure network and record flight telemetry came to a total of \$74,261.84. Dallas Fire-Rescue requires all our pilots have a current Part 107 license in order to pilot a UAS. Dallas Fire-Rescue paid for all our pilots to take the exam administered by FAA at an approved testing location. The testing expenses came to a total of \$2,275. We also purchased several items (cones, target buckets, stands etc.) to be used for training purposes that came to a total of \$258.44. The grand total for the initial purchase came to \$124,446.31. The cost for repairs to the fleet to date has come to a total of \$75.97.

Derrick Cherry, Captain
Dallas Fire-Rescue Department

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