

Resolution No.: 17-1242
Introduced: September 23, 2014
Adopted: October 14, 2014

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Councilmembers Berliner, Andrews, Elrich, Leventhal, Navarro, Rice, and Riemer

SUBJECT: Resolution Regarding the Review and County Government Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)

Background

1. On September 11, 2014, Montgomery County's four quadcopter style unmanned aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, were discussed by the County Council's Public Safety Committee. One drone is assigned to the Executive Branch Office of Innovation, while the other three are assigned to the Fire and Rescue Service.
2. The Council believes that these types of drones can provide significant benefits to public safety responders, such as seeing behind a fire wall that could otherwise not be penetrated and other situations where it is unsafe to deploy an officer.
3. However, the use of drones raises serious privacy and other policy issues. In its December 2011 report, "Protecting Privacy From Aerial Surveillance: Recommendations for Government Use of Drone Aircraft," the American Civil Liberties Union called for drone usage policy to be clear, determined by the public's representatives, and open to the public.
4. The Council is responsible for establishing County government policy through powers vested in it by State law and the County Charter.

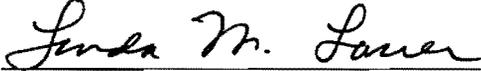
Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council will review policy issues associated with the public and private use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and will identify legislative, regulatory, and policy actions that may be warranted.

Pending the outcome of the Council's review, the Council urges the County Executive to authorize our Police and Fire and Rescue Chiefs to use UAS where, in their professional judgment, their use could save lives.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council