

To	From
BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS	
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
DED - DEVELOPMENT	
DED - FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	
DED - OPERATIONS	
DED - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	
DED - EXTERNAL RELATIONS	
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SR DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
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BUSINESS & TRADE DEVELOPMENT	
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	
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CONSTRUCTION	
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE	
CONTRACTS & PURCHASING	
DEBT & TREASURY	

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
HARBOR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

August 26, 2014

To	From	
XX	ENGINEERING	
	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	
	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	
	GOODS MOVEMENT	
	GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
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	HUMAN RESOURCES	
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	MANAGEMENT AUDIT	
	MEDIA RELATIONS	
	PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEV.	
	PORT PILOTS	
X	PORT POLICE	X
	PUBLIC RELATIONS	
	REAL ESTATE	
	RISK MANAGEMENT	
	WHARFINGERS	
cc		

**SPECIAL ORDER 14-03**

**TO: All Port Police Personnel**

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL ORDER UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS**

Recently, as a result of commercial marketing of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or "drones" there have been several incidents of hobbyists operating unmanned, powered aircraft over populated areas resulting in public safety concerns.

It is anticipated the availability and proliferation of UASs will continue since there are no existing regulations regarding purchase and/or ownership. This being the case, the following Los Angeles Port Police interim policy is enacted when confronting UASs operations in Harbor Department controlled areas.

**Definition**

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) - commonly referred to as "drones" shall mean any unmanned aircraft that can fly under the control of a remote pilot, autonomously or by a geographic positioning system (GPS) and/or guided by an autopilot mechanism. Model aircraft UASs are defined as unmanned aircraft that is (1) capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere; (2) flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft; and (3) flown for hobby or recreational purposes.

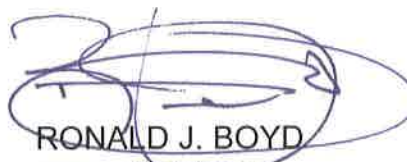
**Policy**

1. The Port Police will not enforce Federal law in regards to civil or public UASs. However, the Port Police may enforce, existing Los Angeles Municipal Code, Section 63.44 (B)(8), entitled "Regulations Affecting Park and Recreation Areas" in regards to model aircraft UASs.
- B. "Within the limits of any park or other City-owned Harbor Department designated and controlled property within the City of Los Angeles."
8. "No person shall land, release, take off or fly any balloon, except children toy balloons not inflated with any flammable material, helicopter, parakite, hang glider, aircraft or powered models thereof, except in areas specifically set aside therefor."

2. It should be noted that within the Harbor Department properties, there are NO areas set aside for model aircraft UAS operations
3. It should also be noted that as of the date of the issuance of this special order, the FAA has not authorized the operation of any civil UASs in the national airspace system, so any UAS not operated by a government agency may be presumed to be a model aircraft UAS subject to the provisions of Section 63.44.
4. The Los Angeles Port Police Training Bulletin, TB-10-001 should be referred to regarding the definition of parks and beaches.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

- Effective immediately, any Port Police personnel encountering a model aircraft operating within a Harbor Department controlled property and/or waterway is in violation of LAMC Section 63.44 (B)(8), a misdemeanor.
- If encountering a UAS, Port Police personnel shall consider the public safety implications of operating a UAS over densely populated areas, in heavily traversed helicopter routes, helicopter landing zones owned by the Harbor Department and/or recreational waterways within the POLA complex.
- Port Police personnel shall conduct an investigation and detain UAS operators.
- If located, UAS operators shall be directed to immediately land the aircraft.
- The UAS operator may be arrested / cited, and released (with appropriate identification).
- A detailed arrest report containing the elements of the crime shall be prepared by the officer.
- The UAS and attached equipment shall be booked as evidence.  
**NOTE:** If the UAS is equipped with a camera, Port Police personnel may not examine or seize any imagery under U.S. Supreme Court, *Riley v. California*, 134 S. Ct. 2473 (2014). Based on Reasonable Suspicion, a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) will be completed; the FBI and JRIC shall be notified.
- Enforcement of LAMC Section 63.44 (B)(8) shall be done consistently regardless of who the operator is or the stated intent. If the UAS operator claims to have FAA authorization, Port Police personnel shall require the UAS operator to provide documentation establishing such authority.

  
RONALD J. BOYD  
Chief of Police  
Port Police Division