



RESOLUTION NO. 40658

1 BY REQUEST OF COUNCIL MEMBERS HINES AND HUNTER

2 A RESOLUTION supporting responsible drone ownership through safe operation,
3 and directing the City Manager to develop an education strategy to help
4 connect residents to information on drone regulation and policies in
Tacoma.

5 WHEREAS drones, or more formally, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles ("UAV"), or
6 when they are under 55 pounds, Unmanned Aircraft Systems ("UAS"), have many
7 regulations to ensure safe operation and ownership, and

8 WHEREAS regulation of UAVs falls under the authority of the Federal
9 Aviation Administration ("FAA"), which regulates U.S. airspace and prohibits states
10 and localities from regulating drones, in most cases, and

11 WHEREAS the FAA has recently adopted rules that require the registration
12 of drones, restrict their size, and limit how high and fast they can fly, and make it
13 easier to become a commercial drone operator, and

14 WHEREAS, on October 1, 2019, the City Council passed Amended
15 Ordinance No. 28615, updating the Park Code to add drones, "sky lanterns,"
16 unmanned aircraft systems, and motorized models as prohibited equipment use in
17 parks, except as specifically authorized by permit or the Metro Parks Director, and

18 WHEREAS methods of getting authorization to fly in parks and general
19 understanding of FAA rules is lacking, and a resource to help educate and inform
20 drone owners and residents of the FAA rules would be beneficial, and

21 WHEREAS the basic regulations that drone owners should be aware of, and
22 the City can help to educate residents about, are as follows:
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1. Register your drone, mark it on the outside with the registration number and carry proof of registration with you;
2. Fly only for recreational purposes;
3. Fly your drone at or below 400 feet above the ground when in uncontrolled (Class G) airspace;
4. Obtain authorization before flying in controlled airspace (Class B, C, D, and E);
5. Keep your drone within your visual line-of-sight, or within the visual line-of-sight of a visual observer who is co-located (physically next to) and in direct communication with you;
6. Do not fly at night unless your drone has lighting that allows you to know its location and orientation at all times;
7. Give way to and do not interfere with manned aircraft;
8. Never fly over any person or moving vehicle;
9. Never interfere with emergency response activities such as disaster relief, any type of accident response, law enforcement activities, firefighting, or hurricane recovery efforts;
10. Never fly under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Many over-the-counter medications have side effects that could impact your ability to safely operate your drone; and
11. Do not operate your drone in a careless or reckless manner, and

WHEREAS developing an educational campaign and establishing a website or similar resource to provide information and links from the FAA website locally can help businesses that sell drones to be aware of the regulations, so they can inform their customers, and

WHEREAS this educational campaign comes from hearing from residents who have witnessed unsafe usage of drones, and from residents who have drones but were surprised to learn of the many regulations of drone usage, even recreationally, and



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WHEREAS all residents will potentially be affected by this policy, but it is directed at those who regularly use drones for photos or business purposes or recreationally, such as families or younger residents flying for fun; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the City Council supports responsible drone ownership through safe operation, and hereby directs the City Manager to develop an education strategy to help connect residents to information on drone regulation and policies in Tacoma.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney