



COUNCIL DECISION REQUEST

SUBJECT: Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at Payson Airport

MEETING DATE: 3-7-13

SUBMITTED BY: LaRon Garrett, Asst. Town Mgr. 

SUBMITTAL TO AGENDA
APPROVED BY TOWN MANAGER

AMOUNT BUDGETED: \$0

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED: \$0



EXHIBITS (If Applicable, To Be Attached): Letter Requesting Policy on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

POSSIBLE MOTION

The Payson Town Council supports the use of civilian Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's) at the Payson Airport and I move to direct the Airport Commission to research the use of UAV's at the Payson Airport and to recommend any updates/amendments to the Town's Rules and Regulations, Policies, and/or Chapter 95 of the Town Code that may be necessary to accommodate UAV's and ensure continued Airport safety.

SUMMARY OF THE BASIS FOR POSSIBLE MOTION:

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles is no longer the just the purview of the military. UAV's are now being used for civilian use. The FAA is currently drafting new regulations for UAV's and the State Legislature is considering at least one bill that would regulate law enforcement use of UAV's. Jim DuFriend, President of Bravo Partners, has requested that the Town review its current policies and code provisions related to the Airport and UAV's. See attached letter. The current Town Code does not address the issue of UAV's.

Staff believes that this type of proactive thinking about the intersection of new technology and laws, policies and regulations is an excellent idea. Staff would recommend, as Mr. DuFriend requests in his letter, that the Airport Commission research possible UAV use at the Airport and any changes to the Town's Rules and Regulations, Policies, and/or Chapter 95 necessitated by such use and to make recommendations to the Town Council. Jim Hunt, Chairperson of the Airport Commission, received a copy of Mr. DuFriend's letter and concurs with this recommendation.

PROS:

This is a proactive step to have the airport ready to handle future issues that may come up concerning UAV's

CONS:

N/A

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FUNDING:

Acct:	Budget:	Available:	Expense:	Remaining:
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Acct:	Budget:	Available:	Expense:	Remaining:

FM: _____ Date: _____

18 February, 2013

To: President, Payson Airport Commission

From: President, Bravo Partners, Inc.

SUBJ: Request for Policy Statement Concerning the Operation of
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's) From the Payson Airport

BACKGROUND

The operation of UAV's is no longer solely in the purview of the U.S. Military. The FAA is presently crafting what will become a new Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) that will provide for non-military UAV operations. This process began in 2010 and should be finalized no later than early 2014.

At this time, there are approximately 250 Federal, State, and Municipal entities waiting to request permission to fly UAV's in U.S. airspace. There are very few private entities.

CURRENT LOCAL ARIZONA ACTIVITIES

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott and Cochise College in Douglas are developing UAV training programs. Cochise College is currently partnered with the U.S. Army training UAV mechanics and plans on conducting pilot training.

The ability of UAV's to safely share airspace with general and commercial aviation is currently being proven by the U.S. Army. They are flying the Hunter (12' wingspan) in the traffic pattern with general aviation student pilots at the Cochise Airstrip. This is being done with the UAV pilots located remotely from the pattern.

BRAVO PARTNERS' INTENT

Bravo Partners Inc. plans to move forward with UAV operations. Our extensive military and aviation background allows us to do so with confidence in the possibilities of the platform.

We intend to begin UAV operations soon after Federal Regulations are finalized. This will be no sooner than the last quarter of 2013, and will likely be several months later than that.

REQUEST

We expect that there will be understandable public concern about local UAV operations. We therefore request that the Town of Payson craft a policy statement regarding the operation of UAV's at the Payson Airport. We believe that this is an important first step in bringing Payson into this new and rewarding part of American Aviation.


Jim DuFriend
USMC, Ret.