November 22, 2016

Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701


Dear Judge Margines,

In a letter dated August 23, 2016, the City of Mission Viejo (the “City”) indicated that it would provide a final response to Recommendations R.1 through R.5 and R.9 no later than November 27, 2016, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(b)(3). Please allow the following to serve as the City’s updated response to Recommendations R.1 through R.5 and R.9.

Recommendations and Responses:

R.1. Each City Council should direct its City Attorney to provide a report to the city’s police department and City Council on existing laws that can be applied to the use of recreational drones in the city’s jurisdiction by December 30, 2016.

Updated Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The City Attorney, in conjunction with Orange County Counsel, has advised the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and City Council on existing laws that can be applied to the use of recreational drones. Furthermore, the City Council has advised the City Attorney to form a regional solution to the regulation of recreational drones.

R.2. Each City should adopt a recreational drone ownership and operation ordinance, with regulations similar to those found in Los Angeles City ordinance #183912, by March 31, 2017, to the extent not preempted or superseded by Federal law or Federal regulations.

Updated Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be considered by the City Council in the future. The City is aware of Los Angeles’ recreational drone ordinance. The City has recently formed, and serves as the head of, a recreational
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drone committee with surrounding local governments to draft a regional recreational drone ordinance. The regional committee will need time to analyze current legislation and consider the best approach to regulating recreational drones.

R.3. Each City should inform its citizens about laws and ordinances that apply to recreational drone operators through print media, city-related web sites, social media sites and/or public forums by March 31, 2017.

Updated Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be considered by the City Council in the future. Once the regional committee finds the best approach to regulating recreational drones and a recreational drone ordinance is adopted by the City Council, the City will inform its citizens about the applicable recreational drone laws.

R.4. Each City should establish and publish on its website a point of contact for drone-related citizen complaints by December 30, 2016.

Updated Response: This recommendation has been implemented. The City recently created a new City website and mobile device application in which citizens can report any complaints. Additionally, citizens can report any complaints to the Orange County Sheriff’s Department.

R.5. Each City should post FAA drone ownership and operation educational links on city-related websites, newsletters, and flyers by December 30, 2016.

Updated Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be considered by the City Council in the future. Once the regional committee finds the best approach to regulating recreational drones and a recreational drone ordinance is adopted by the City Council, the City will address how it will educate its citizens.

R.9. The County and each City should formally gather data on recreational drone incidents within their jurisdictions and review these data annually and report the results publicly. The first analysis and publication should occur within 1 year of the publication of this report.

Updated Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be considered by the City Council in the future. Once the regional committee finds the best approach to regulating recreational drones and a recreational drone ordinance is adopted by the City Council, the City intends to work with other regional members of the regional drone committee to collect and report data on recreational drone incidents in the region.

Sincerely,

Frank Ury  
Mayor

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