

## **ST. CHARLES PARISH DRONE USAGE POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

St. Charles Parish will use drone camera footage to provide official and accurate aerial video used to better inform citizens, the general public, stakeholders and media of infrastructure updates and parish activities. This tool is simply another way to deliver public information and customer service to our residents with ever changing technology. To address the fast-changing landscape of the Internet and the way residents communicate and obtain information online, the parish plans to use drone footage to provide better quality videos across all media formats to reach a broader audience in a timely, efficient and aesthetically pleasing way.

### **II. DEFINITIONS**

Drone photography or drone camera video footage is the capture of still images and video by a remotely operated or autonomous unmanned aerial vehicle.

### **III. POLICY**

All official St. Charles Parish videography and still photography are considered an extension of the parish's information networks and are governed by related policies, such as the 'St. Charles Parish Employee Use of Computers / Internet / E-mail Acceptable Use Policy' as adopted by the parish president and council.

It is the intention of the parish to operate the drone within the confines of federal law and therefore will adhere to:

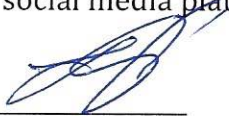
- 49 U.S.C. 40102(a)(41)(c)- Public Aircraft- states, "An aircraft owned and operated by the government of a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States, or a political subdivision (as determined by the Attorney General of the State) of one of these governments." St. Charles Parish is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, therefore this requirement is met.
- 49 U.S.C. 40125(b)- Aircraft Owned by Governments- states, "An aircraft described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 40102(a)(41) does not qualify as a public aircraft under such section when the aircraft is used for commercial purposes or to carry an individual other than a crewmember or a qualified non-crewmember." The UAS cannot be used for commercial purposes if owned by a governmental entity.

*All St. Charles Parish drones, the operation thereof, and their operators, are subject to any and all other applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.*

Additionally, the parish will ensure that the person who will be flying the UAS must either hold a remote pilot airman certificate with a small UAS rating or be under the direct supervision of a person who does hold a remote pilot certificate. In order to qualify for a remote pilot certificate, a person must:

- Demonstrate aeronautical knowledge by either:
  - Passing an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA approved knowledge testing center; or
  - Hold a part 61 pilot certificate other than student pilot, complete a flight review within the previous 24 months, and complete a small UAS online training course provided by the FAA.
  
- Be vetted by the Transportation Security Administration

It is important to ensure the public's trust of St. Charles Parish's operation of the drone; therefore, any use of drone to capture visual elements to enhance the parish's videography will be captured only to reflect the public brand of stcharlesparish-la.gov. The Public Information Office will notify citizens, the general public, stakeholders and media through the website and or social media platforms 24 hours prior to using the drone.

Approved by:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5-15-18