

The University of Michigan
Regents Communication
Action Request

Subject: Regents' Ordinance revision

Action Requested: Approval of revisions

In February 2016, the University's Executive Offices (EOs) issued a "hold on operation" of unmanned aerial vehicles ("UAVs" or "drones") on or above Ann Arbor campus property.

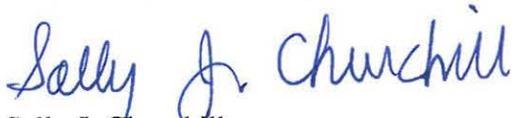
The hold was motivated in large part by safety concerns. Drones can interfere with the air medical transport helicopters that regularly land at the medical center for example, potentially causing injury or loss of life.

The proposed revisions to the Regents' Ordinance would effectuate the hold issued by the EOs, and, as requested by DPSS, would provide a mechanism for imposition of penalties for any violations. The proposed revisions also grant the executive vice president/chief financial officer (EVPCFO), or designee, the authority to waive these provisions as they deem appropriate.

By generally banning UAV operations over the Ann Arbor campus, unless permitted by a specific exemption or waiver, the proposed revisions would promote safety while still permitting appropriate uses of UAVs – including for education and research – consistent with University policies and procedures.

Therefore, I recommend approval of the attached revisions to the *Ordinance to Regulate Parking and Traffic and to Regulate the Use and Protection of the Buildings and Property of the Regents of the University of Michigan*.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally J. Churchill
Vice President and Secretary of the University

Attachment

July 2016

Article XV: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

Section 1. Definitions. As used in this Article XV, the following terms have the definitions set forth below:

- (1) “Unmanned aerial vehicle” and “unmanned aircraft system” or “UAV” means an aerial vehicle or system, whether or not capable of carrying humans or cargo, that is operated remotely or that is capable of navigating autonomously (commonly referred to as ‘drones’).
- (2) “Law enforcement officer” means a University law enforcement officer or a non-University law enforcement officer of legally established law enforcement agencies.

Section 2. Criminal Provisions.

- (1) Prohibition. Except as provided in Sections 5 and 6 of this Article, it shall be unlawful for anyone to operate, take off, or land a UAV from, on, or over University of Michigan property.
- (2) Penalty. A person who violates this Section 2 is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, punishable by imprisonment for not less than ten (10) days and no more than sixty (60) days, or by a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00), or both.

Section 3. Civil Provisions.

- (1) Prohibition. Except as provided in Sections 5 and 6 of this Article, no person shall assist in the operation, take off, or landing of a UAV from, on, or over University of Michigan property.
- (2) Penalty. A violation of this Section 3 shall constitute a civil infraction and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than fifty dollars (\$50).

Section 4. Impoundment of the UAV. A law enforcement officer with a reasonable belief that a UAV is being operated in violation of any provisions of this Article may also impound the UAV.

Section 5. Exceptions. The prohibitions set forth in this Article shall not apply to any of the following:

- (1) Use of UAVs for law enforcement purposes by law enforcement officers; or
- (2) Use of UAVs indoors, provided that such use a) occurs in a University space or building that has established policies and procedures to permit the safe operation of UAVs and b) is conducted in accordance with those policies and procedures; or

- (3) Use of UAVs in any outdoor campus locations that have been designated by the University for such use, provided that such use is conducted in accordance with the policies and procedures applicable to those locations.

Section 6. **Waiver.** The Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, or designee(s), may waive the prohibitions set forth in this Article under circumstances they deem appropriate. Any waiver must be in writing and must define its scope and duration.

Note: Article XV: Penalties and Enforcement will become **Article XVI**.