

From: [John Purdy](#)
To: [Rebecca Noecker](#); [Amy Brendmoen](#); [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#); [Jack Serier](#)
Cc: [Mitra Jalali](#); [Jane Prince](#)
Subject: Public comments of John Purdy for posting to Legistar file PH 23-2 UAS Drone Policy Public Hearing May 3, 2023
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 4:02:31 PM
Attachments: [Public Comments of John Purdy dated May 2.pdf](#)

Rebecca Noecker, Ward 2 Councilmember and Vice President
15 Kellogg Blvd. West 310-B City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Amy Brendmoen, Ward 5 Councilmember and President
320-A City Hall 15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Axel Henry, SPPD Chief
367 Grove St.
Saint Paul, MN 55101 (via Asst. Chief Serier)

Dear Councilmember Noecker, President Brendmoen, Chief Henry and City Clerk Cheri Moore,

Please accept my attached comments and kindly post them to the City Legistar under file PH 23-2.

If you have any questions please contact me via email or telephone.

Thank you,

John Purdy
10 W Delos St
Saint Paul, MN 55107
651-292-9651

cc: [Mitra Jalali, Councilmember-Ward 3](#); [Jane Prince, Councilmember-Ward 7](#)

Public Comments of John Purdy dated May 1, 2023. Please post to Legistar under PH 23-2 Drone Policy.

Dear City Council and Chief of Police Axel Henry,

1. Will this policy and the use of drones replace City Policy [407.00](#) which currently encourages SPPD officers to make use of the 24/7 Minnesota State Patrol helicopter?
2. What will be the yearly cost of this proposed UAS program?
3. Please provide a definition within the Draft Policy for the meaning of “weapon” within section II. Definitions. Specifically, will such definition include or exclude Tear Gas, Flash Bang Sound Effects or other riot control agents that drones are capable of [delivering](#)?

Minn. Statute 624.731 does not define these agents as weapons unless they are used by perpetrators in the commission of a crime. Minn. Statute 626.19 has no definition. City Legislative Ordinance 225.02 has no definition.

4. Procedures are needed that would give substance, other than another lawsuit, to the enforcement of Draft Policy Privacy Section VII. These drones can take photos from up to 1,500 feet with high resolution.

Saint Paul has already paid out at least \$447,500 in settlements due to its officers not adhering to data privacy policy and procedure. The cases of SPPD [Officer Rasmussen](#), KSTP-TV news anchor [Jessica Miles](#), SPPD [Officer Krekelberg](#), Fox 9 anchor [Alix Kendall](#) and the case of [Kobe Bryant](#) all indicate that the policy needs to include strict disciplinary provisions when Section X. Data Classification policies are not followed.

5. Draft Policy Table of Contents omits “Privacy” as a subject and should be added to the table.

6. The “Draft” posted to Legistar is no longer in draft form. [Line Procedure 463.06](#) became effective on April 14, 2023.

Minn. Statute 626.19 Subd. 9 requires a public hearing at a regularly scheduled 3:30 Council Meeting; Subd. 10 requires public input in developing and adopting a UAV policy. But here SPPD and the City are riding herd over its citizens and Minnesota law by ignoring us and breaking the same law twice.

Who needs to keep an eye on who here?

John Purdy
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Saint Paul, MN 55107
651-292-9651