



CITY OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2017
Gary Jenkins, Chief of Police
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POLICE UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM – PUBLIC MEETINGS

PULLMAN – The Pullman Police Department is seeking public input on Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS; Drones) policy development. Already utilized by the military for many years, UAS are more cost effective, safer, and in many ways, more versatile than manned aircraft. A number of law enforcement agencies in Washington State have already launched UAS programs.

The Police Department intends to use UAS for search & rescue, traffic coordination (such as post-game traffic for WSU home football games), outdoor crime scene and major traffic collision documentation, tactical reconnaissance, tactical deployment (SWAT), weather event reconnaissance (flooding), and to assist the Pullman Fire Department with firefighting coordination and tactics.

Police staff are developing the UAS program in collaboration with Washington State University Assistant Professor Matthew E. Taylor from the WSU School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Dr. Taylor specializes in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics.

Pullman PD is developing a UAS policy that will be based on two factors: 1) best practices for authorized use of the UAS, and; 2) public input to address privacy concerns. Public meetings are scheduled to obtain public input on policy development. All members of the public are invited.

When: Thursday, April 27, 2:00 pm

Location: WSU CUB Butch's Den

Host: WSU Robotics Club

When: Wednesday, May 3, 5:30 pm

Location: Umpqua Bank, 225 N. Grand Ave, Pullman, WA 99163

Host: Pullman League of Women Voters

Both meetings will be broadcast live on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PullmanPD. A draft policy is available on the Pullman PD website at <http://bit.ly/2p2r6aL>

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