

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-\_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF MERCED, CALIFORNIA RESCINDING  
RESOLUTON NO. 2017-57 AND AUTHORIZING  
THE USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has promulgated regulations related to the operation of drones commonly known as Small Unmanned Aircraft Rule Part 107;

WHEREAS, the City of Merced may operate small unmanned aircraft systems, 55 pounds or less, pursuant to FAA Part 107 regulations and state and local laws; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is enacting this resolution in order to outline the permissible use of drones by the City of Merced.

SECTION 1. RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION. Resolution No. 2017-57 is hereby rescinded.

SECTION 2. RE-ADOPTION. The City Council of the City of Merced approves the use and operation of unmanned aircraft systems for the following purposes:

- Search for lost or missing persons
- Search for suspects avoiding arrest
- Size up of large incidents, fire, hazardous materials spills/releases, Rescue on bear creek, etc.
- Fire Investigation, Fire scene, surveillance, etc.
- Training – Aerial View of training evolutions for historical purpose and skills evaluations
- Training – Pilot instruction and evaluation
- Public Education – Video of fire scenes, etc.
- Public Education – Public Training for disaster preparedness
- Emergency Operations – Disaster situations, flood, earthquake, manmade and natural disasters
- Search and Rescue

- Inspections, Construction Management, and Environmental Monitoring and Documentation
- Surveying and Mapping
- Marketing and Public Outreach – Images and Videos
- Testing – Testing a drone’s features and performance

SECTION 3. The unmanned aircraft system shall be operated in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations including but not limited to FAA rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. The operation of the unmanned aircraft system is in the course of legitimate activity by an employee of the City of Merced and will be approved prior to the operation, by a member employee or official, acting in a management or supervisory role.

SECTION 5. If necessary, the appropriate agency of the member has properly secured a search warrant prior to the operation of the unmanned aircraft system.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Merced at a regular meeting held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:                      Council Members:

NOES:                      Council Members:

ABSENT:                      Council Members:

ABSTAIN:                      Council Members:

APPROVED:

MATTHEW SERRATTO, MAYOR

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Mayor

ATTEST:

D. SCOTT MCBRIDE, CITY CLERK

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant/Deputy City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CRAIG J. CORNWELL, CITY ATTORNEY

Craig Cornwell      7-25-2024  
City Attorney                      Date