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POLICE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
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WILLIAM SCOTT
CHIEF OF POLICE

October 25, 2022

Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, CA 94102

President Walton and Members:

Re: SF Administrative Code 19B.7, Written Exigency Report: Interagency Operation and Use of Unmanned Aerial Support (“UAS” or “drone”) on September 20, 2022.

SF Admin. Code 19B (“19B”) was enacted in August 2019. Under 19B.7, the San Francisco Police Department (“SFPD” or “Department”) is required to report to Board of Supervisors the acquisition or use of the Surveillance Technology, as defined by Chapter 19B, in exigent circumstances.

While the SFPD did not acquire, use, or manage the use of Surveillance Technology on September 20, 2022, the Department did benefit from support, situational awareness, and information provided by the UAS owned and operated by the Antioch Police Department (“APD”).

As the Department partnered with APD and a Surveillance Technology was used during this operation, the Department is issuing this 19B.7. written exigency report to the Board of Supervisors. As required, this exigency report provides an overview to confirm the following:

- The use of the Surveillance Technology was solely to respond to an exigent circumstance;
- The use of the Surveillance Technology ceased within seven days;
- Data from the Surveillance Technology was not retained by SFPD, except as required by law; and
- Data from the Surveillance Technology was not disclosed to a third party, except as required by law.

Use of the Surveillance Technology was solely to respond to exigent circumstances:

An ongoing investigation by SFPD’s Community Violence Reduction Team (“CVRT”), Investigations Bureau, determined that a shooting suspect was located in Antioch, California. CVRT officers were equipped with both an arrest warrant and a search warrant for a residence.

Due to certain factors derived from the investigation, a risk-assessment and analysis by SFPD’s Tactical Unit determined that this was a high-risk operation where there was potential for imminent danger of death or serious physical injury to any person involved.

The following are some of the factors that qualified the search and arrest warrant execution as a high-risk operation:

1. Known information, including the criminal history, of the wanted suspect.
2. The target location was tied to subjects believed to be involved in multiple shootings where multiple firearms were used.

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3. SFPD gathered intelligence that revealed that the target location was believed to be a stash house for weapons and used by members of a known and violent criminal organization.
4. It was determined that the target location offered numerous escape routes and had several small buildings on the property which could provide potential hiding spaces. This did not allow for containment; the failure to contain target locations during high-risk warrants can contribute to suspects evading detention/arrest, the use of force including officer involved shootings, the loss of evidence, and can put neighboring residents in significant danger.
5. There were a high number of individuals seen entering and exiting the target location during the investigation period which further challenged containment of the target location.

On September 20, 2022, the APD's Tactical Unit executed the high-risk search and arrest warrants. During the execution, SFPD officers were on scene and served in a supportive role while APD deployed their UAS. UAS observations were communicated by APD members to SFPD both verbally and via police radio channels. The UAS provided APD with an ability to observe aerial views of areas unable to be contained and observed by the Tactical Unit. This action created time and distance between suspects and officers and was specifically necessary when an individual in the target residence attempted to flee with several firearms. The use of UAS mitigated the risks to officers and the suspects in the residence and allowed individuals to be taken into custody without incident. This operation included the arrest of numerous individuals and the seizure of two pistols and nine high-capacity magazines, including a 50-round drum. No injuries were sustained by individuals inside the target location, by bystanders, or officers involved.

The use of the Surveillance Technology ceased within seven days:

APD operated the UAS and was able to provide information to the APD Tactical Unit and SFPD officers on scene. APD and SFPD officers benefited from live optical information from the APD UAS for twenty (20) minutes on the morning of September 20, 2022. The APD ceased deployment of their UAS for this specific operation on September 20, 2022.

Retention of data from the Surveillance Technology:

The APD UAS did not transmit still photos or video footage to SFPD and as such, there was no surveillance technology data to retain. APD did transmit to SFPD situational awareness information received from their UAS which was provided both verbally and over police radio.

Data from the Surveillance Technology was not shared with a Third-Party:

APD did not share still photos or video footage from their UAS with SFPD. SFPD did not record, receive, retain, file, or share video or still photos from the UAS with another party.

This written report summarizes the use of Surveillance Technology under Section 19B.7 to the Board of Supervisors as required within 60 days following the inception of the exigent circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

cc: Police Commission
SF Committee on Information Technology