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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman Joins District Attorney Brooke Jenkins Calling for New Enforcement Tools for SFPD to Curb Stunt Driving Sideshows

Letter from members of the Board of Supervisors Requests Policy to Authorize Use of Unmanned Aerial Drones to Deter Dangerous Stunt Driving in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — Today San Francisco Supervisor Rafael Mandelman requested the City’s technology oversight body develop a new policy authorizing the use of unmanned drones to control the dangers of stunt driving sideshows.

“When dozens, sometimes hundreds of vehicles take an intersection hostage late at night, law enforcement has to make a difficult choice about whether to intervene with the calculation that intervention could create an even more dangerous situation,” said **District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman**. “SFPD needs every tool available to make our streets safer, and this sensible policy change to allow the use of drones to identify and later impound involved vehicles will help us take back our streets.”

“Sideshows are dangerous and law enforcement must respond in a way that makes the community safer, while ensuring there are consequences for participants,” said **Brooke Jenkins, San Francisco District Attorney**. “Using unmanned aerial drones to safely monitor and gather evidence against dangerous sideshow drivers is a common-sense solution that will deter this dangerous behavior and provide useful evidence that will assist in prosecution.”

Other cities like Oakland and Los Angeles already authorize their police departments to use drones, but SFPD is limited to using drones only during very narrow circumstances such as search and rescue. “It makes sense to update our rules to address the growing public safety threat of sideshows,” **Mandelman** added.

In 2019, when the Board of Supervisors banned with limited exceptions the use of Facial Recognition Technology, the newly created Chapter 19B of the Administrative Code also required the Committee on Information Technology (COIT) to develop, review, and approve policies for all surveillance technologies used by City departments. Surveillance policies developed by COIT are forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors for final approval.

Today's Letter of Inquiry, co-signed by Supervisor Myrna Melgar, Matt Dorsey, Ahsha Safai, and Catherine Stefani asks COIT to work with SFPD to prepare a Surveillance Impact Report and recommend a Surveillance Technology Policy allowing the use of unmanned aerial drones to deter side shows for the Board's approval.

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