

City of Tarpon Springs Development Department Drone (UAS) Policy

The City of Tarpon Springs has recently added the ability to perform building inspections and other inspectional requirements via a remote-controlled unmanned aircraft system, i.e. drone, to our options of performing inspections. This document is intended to educate the public and City staff as to the parameters and limitations of the proper use of these devices.

This policy is largely based on the Voluntary Best Practices for UAS Privacy, Transparency, and Accountability document commissioned by President Obama on February 15, 2015 and published May 18, 2016. This document may be viewed in its entirety at the following website url address, https://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/uas_privacy_best_practices_6-21-16.pdf

The City of Tarpon Springs and its staff are very sensitive to the public's right to privacy and their expectation of our commitment to transparency, privacy and accountability. It is for these reasons that strict adherence to this policy be met by all of our employees. The permittee shall offer implied consent when signing the permit application, unless the opt out procedure is used. In general, all permits issued from this office will be subject to the use of drone technology. An opt out procedure shall be available to anyone wishing to use that option for personal reasons. If a permittee chooses to opt out, any safety measures required by our inspectors to access the work being inspected will need to be provided by the permittee. As suggested in the Voluntary Best Practices for UAS Privacy, Transparency, and Accountability document, any privacy or security complaints or concerns shall be directed to the inspector on-site during the inspection or directly to the City of Tarpon Springs Building Development Division. This policy shall only be for the City of Tarpon Springs Building Development Department and not for any other department within the City, i.e. Police, Fire etc.. In addition, the use of Drones shall explicitly not be used for the purposes of surveillance of any nature.

We have found that due to emerging design techniques in construction coupled with the rising costs of providing safe and suitable access for our employees to properly inspect the construction process during and after completion, that the use of remote-control drones will provide a higher level of safety during the process. It is our intention that drone technology will be used on a reasonably selective basis when the inspector on site believes that an inspection using traditional methods may increase hazards to life or limb.

During the active use of drone technology, we will not intentionally capture images for use at any time, therefore no covered data as defined in the Voluntary Best Practices for UAS Privacy, Transparency, and Accountability document will be retained. The images from the drone will be transmitted wirelessly to the operators position during the on-site inspection for the purposes of the visual inspection only.

All of our drone operators will be federally licensed UAS Pilots certificated through the Federal Aviation Administration and the drones will be properly insured to protect against incident through the City of Tarpon Springs Human Resources Department or the appropriate department as defined by the City Manager.