

**From:** "Sanchez, Aviel A." <aasanchez@mdpd.com>    
**Subject:** Response for EFF Public Records Request for MDPD Drone Aircraft Information  
**Date:** March 2, 2012 9:40:42 AM PST  
**To:** "jlynch@eff.org" <jlynch@eff.org>  
**Cc:** "Lyons, William F." <wlyons@mdpd.com>

3 Attachments, 705 KB

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Good afternoon Ms. Lynch,

Reference is made to the attached Public Records request made by your entity. I apologize for the delay in responding, but we had some issues with the routing and subsequent research assignment.

Below and attached you will find answers to your inquiry. Please note that some questions had connection to various entities or departments, and others to the manufacture. Our Police Legal Bureau Attorney William Lyons (copied on this correspondence) will be coordinating the areas indicating a connection to other Miami-Dade County entities. Mr. Lyons will communicate and reply to you on those matters as soon as the assignments are complete. We kindly refer you to the Manufacturer and the Federal Aviation Administration for any other information you may need outside of Miami-Dade County's entities.

Regards,

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### Your Request/Questions

1. any requests for proposals, proposals submitted by vendors, contracts, budgets or cost allocations for the purchase and/or use of aerial drones, UAs, UAVs, and UASs (hereinafter "drones"); **The Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) has two UAVs in its aircraft fleet. One was purchased through a Department of Justice (DOJ) grant at the cost of approximately \$100k, and the other is leased from the Honeywell Corporation at the cost of one dollar. Information and records request for the above should be referred to the Fiscal Administration Bureau and/or the Miami-Dade County Fiscal Department.**
2. any policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on department use of drones, including on the legal process required (such as a warrant or court order), if any, before operating a drone; **The MDPD Special Patrol Bureau, Aviation Unit (AU) Standard**

Operating Procedures (SOP) outlines the policies and guidelines for the UAVs use. The SOP remains in draft form. The only other known document in our possession is Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Certificate of Authorization (COA), which authorizes the MDPD to operate the UAVs in accordance to FAA set regulations, as outlined in the document (both documents are attached). No warrant or court order is required to operate the UAVs.

3. any departmental records concerning the Miami-Dade Police Department's use of drones

now or plans to use drones in the future including: This request is very broad and needs to be more specific for us to best answer the question. However, the drones are intended to be used in support of law enforcement and other emergency department responders at tactical or critical scenes, as outlined in the SOP and in accordance with the FAA COA.

a. the types of investigations or instances in which the Miami-Dade Police Department is using or plans to use drones; The UAVs are tools intended to be deployed to support law enforcement and other emergency department responders at tactical or critical scenes. The idea is that it can provide an aerial point of view during incidents where human capabilities are impracticable or incapable.

b. policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on storage requirements or procedures for video or static images obtained through use of drones, including

retention times; Currently no policy exists for this topic because the UAVs are not being used to record any incidents. The UAVs do have the ability to capture video/still images as they are being flown via computers, but the AU clears the picture upon the next picture being captured and does not create storage files on the missions. (Note- specifics of what is being captured in the hard drive or the possibility of its retrieval a question that should be referred to the manufacturer for clarification).

c. the altitude at which drones can or do fly; MDPD is limited by the FAA COA to flying the UAVs at an altitude of 300'. However, the aircraft can fly at a much greater altitude (refer to manufacturer for exact specifications and flight capacity limits).

d. drones' ability to carry weapons. Our drones are not equipped to carry any weapons and to my understanding the payload will not permit such a capacity (the UAVs can't even fly in heavy winds with its current weight), but the question should be referred to the manufacturer for final say.

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[MDPD MAV-...pdf \(253 KB\)](#)



[EFF Public R...pdf \(324 KB\)](#)



[MAV SOP Draft.doc \(129 KB\)](#)