



JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.  
MAYOR

*City of Charleston*  
*South Carolina*  
*Clerk of Council Department*

VANESSA TURNER-MAYBANK  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

City Hall  
80 Broad Street, First Floor Conference Room  
Monday, November 30, 2015  
3:00 p.m.

Councilmember Kathleen Wilson, Chair  
Councilmember Aubry Alexander  
Councilmember Perry K. Waring  
Councilmember Dean Riegel  
Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.

### **AGENDA**

1. Moment of Silence
2. Approval of minutes (*DEFERRED*)
3. Updates:
  - a. Police Department
  - b. Fire Department
  - c. Emergency Management
4. An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, Chapter 21, Section 115 to provide regulations for the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles.
5. Adjournment



Ratification  
Number \_\_\_\_\_

# AN ORDINANCE

TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, CHAPTER 21, SECTION 115 TO PROVIDE REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

**Section 1.** Chapter 21, Section 115 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended by adding thereto the following underlined provisions, which shall read as follows:

Sec. 21-115. – Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles.

(a) Definitions.

As used in this section, the following terms shall have meanings indicated.

- (1) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall mean any object or machine that is capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere from the surface to four hundred (400) feet above ground level that are not exempted under FAA regulations.

(b) Prohibitions.

- (1) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall not be operated in a manner that disrupts the quiet enjoyment of property or imposes any risk to persons or damage to property.
- (2) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall not be operated while any operator thereof is under the influence of alcohol or while using any drug that could adversely affect the operator's ability to safely control the drone or unmanned aerial vehicle.
- (3) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall not be equipped with pyrotechnical devices that explode or burn, or any device which

propels a projectile or drops any object or noxious material that creates a hazard to persons or property.

- (4) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall not be operated over or within one-quarter mile of any school property while the school is in session, hospitals, parks, recreation facilities and fields, sporting events, road races or walks, outdoor festivals or fireworks shows, stadiums, public gatherings of 50 or more people, near moving vehicles, highways, bridges, busy streets or anywhere they might interfere with or distract drivers.
- (5) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall not be operated beyond the normal unaided "line of sight" of the person operating it.
- (6) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles fitted with a camera must always be flown at least two hundred feet (200 ft.) away from a person, vehicle, building, or structure.
- (7) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall not be operated within five (5) miles of an airport unless granted authority by the airport and the control tower before flying.
- (8) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall not be operated at night or whenever weather conditions would impair the operator's ability to do so safely.
- (9) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall not be operated in violation of FAA rules or regulations as they are adopted or amended from time to time, or operated in violation of federal or state law as amended from time to time.

(c) Identification.

- (1) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles shall be required to be identified with the name and address of the owner/operator affixed to the outside of the aircraft.

(d) Exceptions.

- (1) Notwithstanding the above, none of the prohibitions recited in this Section shall apply to police or fire department activities or to activities permitted by the FAA, state, or federal law.
- (2) Notwithstanding the above, none of the prohibitions recited in this Section shall apply to captive balloons.
- (3) It shall be lawful to use a drone or an unmanned aerial vehicle for the purpose of mapping, emergency management activities,

public resource management, and for the operation of utility management unless otherwise prohibited by law.

- (4) Drones or unmanned aerial vehicles used in connection with a Special Event that have received prior permission to operate through the Special Events Committee as a part of that Special Event Permit.

**Section 2.** This Ordinance shall become effective upon ratification.

Ratified in City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Year of Our Lord, 2015, in the 240<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence of the United States of America.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Riley, Jr.  
Mayor, City of Charleston

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vanessa Turner Maybank  
Clerk of Council

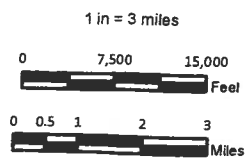
# Airports in the Charleston area with 5 mile distance rings

- Airport runways
- Interstates
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Streets
- Charleston County Streets
- Airport runways 5 mile distance rings
- Water
- City of Charleston



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