

# County of Santa Clara

Office of the Sheriff  
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## MEMORANDUM

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Laurie Smith  
Sheriff

DATE: June 11, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Laurie Smith, Sheriff 

SUBJECT: **February 27, 2018 BOS Meeting, Item 20:**  
Off-Agenda Report RE: Preventing Disruptions Caused by Drones

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At the February 27, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Office of the County Counsel presented a report on options for preventing disruptions caused by drones. A cost-benefit analysis relative to the risks drones present to our jail facilities was conducted by the Office of the Sheriff, and Supervisor Chavez subsequently requested a report outlining preventative measures that can be taken using existing resources.

Although the use of drones in an attempt to smuggle contraband into County correctional facilities involve a knowing violation of existing law, incidents regarding the use of private drones to interfere with custody operations are likely to continue or increase if not properly addressed.

Preventative measures the Office of the Sheriff can take to deter such activity include, but not limited to, efforts specific to the needs of each facility such as the methods outlined below:

### Main Jail

- Perimeter checks two times per day
  - Additional if deemed necessary
- Constant monitoring of exterior cameras
- Multiple 24-hour checks of all sundecks
- Ensure all fresh air access points, roof areas, and sundecks continue to be covered by expanded metal grates
- Consistent evaluation of possible security gaps

Elmwood

- All camp deputies conduct thorough visual and physical inspections of both yards prior to allowing inmates out on the camp
- All camp deputies conduct hourly checks of all inner and outer perimeters surrounding the minimum camp for possible contraband entering the yard
- All secured units with sundecks, deputies conduct thorough visual and physical inspections prior to allowing inmates out on the sundeck
- All perimeter deputies perform hourly checks of all outer/inner security fences and parking areas
- Security Enhancement Training Team (SETT) deputies conduct unscheduled perimeter checks throughout their shifts and report/notify control of any security gaps including suspicious activity
- All control deputies continuously monitor all facility cameras for any out of the ordinary activity
- Should any suspicious activity be spotted, SETT deputies will immediately become available to track/stop any contraband from entering the facility

The Board unanimously adopted Ordinance No. NS-643 amending Section A20-52.1, adding Section A27-18.1, and adding Chapter X to Division B13 of the Santa Clara County Ordinance Code relating to Unmanned Aircraft Operations on June 19, 2018. Over the past year, the presence of drones has not proliferated, but it has remained constant at the County's correctional facilities. While proactive measures assist with prevention of the introduction of contraband into the facilities, these efforts would be bolstered by amending the ordinance

(<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/ceo/nodronezone/Documents/Ordinance-No-NS-643.pdf>) to restrict any unmanned aircraft operation from flying over the County correctional facilities.

CC: Chief Board Aides  
James R. Williams, County Counsel  
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer  
Tiffany Lennear, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors