
From: Matt R. Robinson
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Jim A. Blocker
Subject: Fwd: DRP Update - Media Concerns

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Andrew W. Olsen" <AWOlsen@battlecreekmi.gov>
Date: April 22, 2020 at 9:51:10 AM EDT
To: "Matt R. Robinson" <MRRobinson@battlecreekmi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DRP Update - Media Concerns

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From: Romeo.Durscher <romeo.durscher@dji.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:15:27 PM
To: WAYNE BAKER <wayne.baker@dji.com>
Cc: Romeo.Durscher <romeo.durscher@dji.com>; adam.lisberg <adam.lisberg@dji.com>
Subject: DRP Update - Media Concerns

Email sent from outside of the City of Battle Creek. Use caution before clicking links/attachments.

Dear DRP Partner,

Sorry for the unusual “almost mid-week” email from us. But a media situation has arisen which we wanted to address head-on and supply you with proper information, in case you are being contacted by the media. You may also want to share this with your PIO.

We’re pleased that all 100 Mavic 2 Enterprise drones have been delivered to the 43 American public safety agencies participating in the DJI Disaster Relief Program, and we’re excited to see that many recipients have already received positive coverage in local and national media. From Florida and Michigan to New Jersey and California, the public is learning how drones are helping keep them safe during this unprecedented crisis, and we’ve seen widespread support for this creative adoption of drone technology.

We want to address one area of concern that emerged over the weekend. The spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee [tweeted](#) links to an MSNBC story about the program and a 2017 New York Times [story](#) about DJI and commented, “US using Chinese drones to spy on and lecture Americans about a virus caused by communist China.” This message was picked up in several other stories that ran on conservative websites. Whatever your political leanings, this may cause questions for your internal and external stakeholders. So here are the facts:

- As you know through your hands-on experience with DJI hardware and software, [you have control](#) over the photos, videos and flight logs you generate during your flights. This data is not transferred to DJI unless you deliberately choose to do so. We recently published [this online guide](#) to the privacy settings on DJI consumer and enterprise products, to help you understand how to manage the data you generate.
- The news story refers to a leaked 2017 draft memo written by an office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, based on the word of a single unnamed source. Many of its claims are obviously false or easily disproven, and DJI has [repeatedly debunked it](#), while ICE has never publicly released the memo or validated its contents. DJI also engaged an [independent security research firm](#) which analyzed the data security of our products and confirmed that DJI customers control how their data is collected, stored and transmitted.
- DJI products designed for sensitive government uses have been independently reviewed and tested by U.S. cybersecurity consultants, U.S. federal agencies and the Idaho National Laboratory. Our drones [exceed the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's recommended risk mitigation strategies](#) for drone use in critical infrastructure. While the concerns about DJI are clearly motivated by political sentiment, [this post](#) on our corporate blog explains the facts behind them.

Obviously, you and other public safety agencies which received drones through the DJI Disaster Relief Program are not using drones to “spy on and lecture Americans.” You are best equipped to explain how you are using drones in your communities, the privacy practices you employ, and how your agency has been helped by using drones. Presumably your agencies are not flying any missions which have any possible bearing on national security; instead, you are using drones in a transparent and responsible fashion, flying over areas with no geopolitical significance, in order to protect the health of your communities and yourselves. This is the undeniable truth of how your agencies are using DJI drones.

Despite the facts, these concerns will probably not go away quickly, because it is fueled by politics and sensationalism. We are always available to provide answers and materials to address concerns from your internal or external stakeholders, and we will continue to respond to any additional issues that may arise. But the most credible responses will come from you: Your existing drone programs have earned trust in your communities long before this pandemic, you have shown that you know how to use drones safely, securely and successfully, and you are demonstrating the benefits of drone technology to protect the public and yourselves every day.

Please let us know how we can further assist you. If you have any questions about the above or would like to get additional information on how to respond to media requests, please feel free to reach out to:

Adam Lisberg, Corporate Communications Director, North America
adam.lisberg@dji.com, tel. (917) 734-5874

For other questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to either of us.

Wayne Baker - Director of Public Safety Integration, Wayne.Baker@dji.com
Romeo Durscher - Senior Director of Public Safety Integration, Romeo.Durscher@dji.com

Wishing you safe deployments and thank you for your contributions.

Best,
Romeo & Wayne

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Mission for Battle Creek City Government

To ensure a safe, prosperous and culturally enriched community.

Vision for Battle Creek City Government

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From: Jim A. Blocker
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:55 AM
To: Rebecca L. Fleury
Subject: DJI Drones

Rebecca:

The department purchased over a year ago two drones from DJI, a leader in Drone technology. Currently, DJI controls 70% of the market and even higher for LE agencies. As the COVID crises developed, DJI offered free of charge a program to distribute excess drones to agencies that already had a Drone program up and running and were in FAA compliance as required by law. Although we do have these free and excess drones, there are no plans to utilize them. These were distributed to be used by all Calhoun County Agencies-not just BCPD.

The drones we do have are assigned to the forensics lab utilized primarily by lab personnel for the mapping of crime or significant accident scenes. We have used the drones on occasion to search for missing or wanted persons; a lost juvenile, and the suspect that shot Officer Johnson. All flights are logged and justified, with either a police incident number or activity number with a reason for the flight.

In regards to the recent Fox News story-which I also read-that drones collect data illegally. The Drones we have are not connected to a network on the internet/wifi in any way. Although, many Drone products have this capability-as do ours, we do not utilize those functions, for our own security, to protect evidence as the main reason. We have control on what we use, a key factor in our and many other LE agencies purchase. Cost, also was a main factor-DJI products were considerably less than other versions.

Finally, the Drones we utilize operate under compliance requirements of the FAA and under the law. Our drone program operates under the normal conditions that probable cause, exigent circumstances or a search warrant exists to collect video-the only capability that exist on our drones.

I did share this example on more then one occasion, while discussing the Drone program to the community, if a person has an Android, Apple or any other type of data collecting smart phone-far more is known about that person by the owner of that data, then LE ever will-this is demonstrably true also with our Drone program. Even more, prior to purchasing our first Drone-WMMT offered their drone for our use in case of an emergency. Further, WMMT and all other private Drone users do not have the considerable restrictions(and necessary) placed on their operations as we do ours in regards to privacy.

jb

Jim A. Blocker

Chief of Police

**City of Battle Creek
Police Department**

34 North Division Street
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014
Ph- 269.966.3375
Fx- 269.962.0102
jablocker@battlecreekmi.gov



<http://www.battlecreekmi.gov>

From: Rebecca L. Fleury
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Jim A. Blocker
Subject: FW: Drones

fyi

Rebecca

Rebecca L. Fleury, ICMA-CM

City Manager

**City of Battle Creek
City Manager's Office**

10 North Division Street Rm 206
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014
Ph- 269.966.3378
Ex- 1201
rifleury@battlecreekmi.gov



<http://www.battlecreekmi.gov>

From: Mark A. Behnke <markbehnke@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Rebecca L. Fleury <RLFleury@battlecreekmi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Drones

Email sent from outside of the City of Battle Creek. Use caution before clicking links/attachments.
Here are the concerns that VP has about this subject. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mark A. Behnke
Behnke Transportation, LLC.,
276 Capital Avenue NE.
Battle Creek, MI 49017-3922
DL=269-441-7663
Cell= 269-924-8022
Fax=269-441-7665

From: vpavone@shoplakeviewford.com
To: markbehnke@aol.com
Sent: 4/22/2020 2:33:16 PM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: RE: Drones

Mistake 1. Purchased Drones from a **Chinese** manufacturer .

Mistake 2. The officer in the article specifically said they are utilizing the Drones... What is the Truth ?

Mistake 3. Cost as a factor has compromised our Pharmaceutical industry and our PPE assets.. Short term thinking

Mistake 4. Security is not a policy using Wifi. If they have these capabilities why are putting ourselves in this situation PERIOD

Mistake 5. No justification for a Drone Program Period

Mistake 6 .. I am in control of my own phone. She is responsible for the city government. They did not exercise good decision making.

This issue will not be going away anytime soon....

From: Mark A. Behnke [<mailto:markbehnke@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Vince Pavone; vpavone245@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Drones

Rebecca knows that I am sharing this information with you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mark A. Behnke

Behnke Transportation, LLC.,

276 Capital Avenue NE.

Battle Creek, MI 49017-3922

DL=269-441-7663

Cell= 269-924-8022

Fax=269-441-7665

From: RLFleury@battlecreekmi.gov
To:
Sent: 4/22/2020 2:21:46 PM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: Drones

Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners,

We have been fielding several questions recently in regards to the news article on donation of drones to BCPD. Here is some clarifying information from Chief Blocker:

The department purchased two drones, over a year ago, from DJI, a leader in Drone technology. Currently, DJI controls 70% of the market and even higher for LE agencies. As the COVID crises developed, DJI offered, free of charge, a program to distribute excess drones to agencies that already had a Drone program up and running and were in FAA compliance as required by law. Although we do have these free and excess drones, there are no plans to utilize them. These were distributed to be used by all Calhoun County Agencies-not just BCPD.

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I hope you find this information helpful. Please let Chief Blocker or me know if you have further questions.

Rebecca

Rebecca L. Fleury, ICMA-CM

City Manager

**City of Battle Creek
City Manager's Office**

10 North Division Street Rm 206

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From: Renk <Renk@townsquaremedia.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:43 PM
To: Jim A. Blocker
Subject: Your Drone problem

Email sent from outside of the City of Battle Creek. Use caution before clicking links/attachments.

Hello Chief,

Vince Pavone has contacted myself and Tim pretty upset at what people are thinking about the Chinese company drones you guys have. Apparently he wants us to clean up the BCE's mess.

I left a message for Cindy to have you call me asap so we can set up a time for you to call into my show tomorrow if you want to.

I saw the letter written by Rebecca, the one the I find interesting that she did not inform anyone that the Drones are actually from the same Chinese company that the BCE article is about as well as the Fox News article.

Call me at 269-993-9258 ASAP

Renk

From: Jim A. Blocker
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Ken Trumble
Subject: Re: Battle Creek police get 3 drones to battle COVID-19 pandemic

Ken:

Good morning-

Your number is correct, your voice mail is either not set up or full-that is why I can't leave you a message. Either way, glad to keep this up via email.

An expression I learned long ago, "Facts without context can be a lie." It is true, we had a drone program started in 2018. It is also true that DJI, then and now remains the largest commercial provider of drones globally, to all sectors of the economy and law enforcement. Our drone program, as a fully accreditation and thereby audited department, is used to support our operations that involve criminal behavior, or in search of persons-in a life saving capability. The drones are assigned to the Forensic lab, who also use the drones to accurately map crime scenes, etc. The drones are a tool, like many others tools we have to support the legal and appropriate investigations as we are obligated to conduct.

Here is the context-

For the past 25 years, Trace Christenson, the Gannet News Battle Creek Enquirer author has had free access to the entire Police Headquarters. If we(BCPD) wanted to hide anything from the public-which we do not-as a mater of fact, few agencies would allow such access to the press. I believe in the freedom of the press, just as much as I believe in the principles of the 1st and 4th amendment. As a leader in law enforcement and current Army service member-any suggestion otherwise is hard to listen to and even harder to not take personally.

Facts-

This department began a drone program in 2018-long before this crises. The facts are that drones could be used to approach a crowd and ask them to disperse. The justification for this is to limit exposure of the Officer and citizen. However, that is not our style at all. We have not, nor planned to use the drones in this way. At the time of the delivery of the "free" drones-the idea was if any other out county or regional partner needs aviation support, lets say search and rescue, etc- we would have them available. MSP aviation support is good, just not timely.

Finally, over 82 businesses in this community have had complaints filed against them—from community members, concerned citizens. Not one of them have been found in violation—in other words—law enforcement's role is to support the Governor, but weigh that against the needs of our local employers as well. At BCPD, we believe in community policing and working with our community—not against them.

This is a long email, likely a better conversation over the phone, or in person. I have taken the time to write you, because I love this town, like a love Nashville—we all benefit as a community from one another. Any questions, let me know.

R,

Jim A. Blocker

Chief of Police

**City of Battle Creek
Police Department**

34 North Division Street
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Ph- 269.966.3375
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jablocker@battlecreekmi.gov

<http://www.battlecreekmi.gov>



From: Ken Trumble <ktrumblem12@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2020 7:27 PM
To: Jim A. Blocker <JABlocker@battlecreekmi.gov>
Subject: Battle Creek police get 3 drones to battle COVID-19 pandemic

Email sent from outside of the City of Battle Creek. Use caution before clicking links/attachments.

This is the article I was referencing.

Ken Trumble

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/04/24/battle-creek-police-get-drones-battle-covid-pandemic/111605746/>

Sent from my iPhone