STATE OF VERMONT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
VERMONT STATE POLICE
Emergency Services Unit
45 State drive
Waterbury, VT 05495

Department of Public Safety Report
House and Senate Judiciary
House and Senate Government Operations
On
2019 Vermont Law Enforcement Agency Drone Use

This document serves as the 2019 reporting requirement mandated by Section 4624 of Title 20. By statute, law enforcement agencies are required to send the Department of Public Safety (DPS) information related to any drone use within the previous 12 months. *See* 20 V.S.A. § 4624(a). Annually, DPS must forward the information collected pursuant to subsection (a) of this statute to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations. *See* 20 V.S.A. § 4624(b).

Vermont law enforcement agencies must report to DPS the following information:

(1) The number of times the agency used a drone within the previous 12 months. For each use of a drone, the agency shall report the type of incident involved, the nature of the information collected, and the rationale for deployment of the drone.

(2) The number of criminal investigations aided and arrests made through use of information gained by the use of drones within the previous 12 months, including a description of how the drone aided each investigation or arrest.

(3) The number of times a drone collected data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance within the previous 12 months and the type of data collected in each instance.

(4) The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.

See 20 V.S.A. § 4624(a).

In accordance with statute, DPS submits the following 2019 law enforcement drone usage information received from the Vermont State Police and Capitol Police:

"Your Safety Is Our Business"

1. **The number of times the agency used a drone within the previous 12 months. For each use of a drone, the agency shall report the type of incident involved, the nature of the information collected, and the rationale for deployment of the drone.**

   - The Vermont State Police report deploying a drone once within the previous 12 months to aid in a protection detail for the US Secret Service. With consent from the homeowners, the UAS provided overview footage of both properties the Vice President of the United States, Michael Pence stayed at during a family vacation in Hubbardton, Vermont.

   - The Capitol Police report deploying a drone twice.
     - o 1 – Deployed to assist Montpelier Police and VSP to locate a missing person
     - o 2 – Deployed to inspect the State House Dome at request of BGS

2. **The number of criminal investigations aided and arrests made through use of information gained by the use of drones within the previous 12 months, including a description of how the drone aided each investigation or arrest.**

   - The Vermont State Police report their drone use was not related to a criminal investigation and did not aid in such an investigation or result in criminal arrests.

   - The Capitol Police report neither deployment was related to a criminal investigation and did not aid any investigations or result in criminal arrests.

3. **The number of times a drone collected data on any person, home, or area other than the target of the surveillance within the previous 12 months and the type of data collected in each instance.**

   - The Vermont State Police report their drone usage captured video and images of both residences and properties, with the consent of the homeowners.

   - The Capitol Police report their drone usage did not collect data on any person, home, or other areas.

4. **The cost of the agency's drone program and the program's source of funding.**

   - The Vermont State Police's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program cost approximately $103,761.00 for all associated equipment. An additional $15,900.00 was spent on the initial training. All costs were federally funded through grants.

   - The Capitol Police report approximately $208.97 was needed this reporting period, which came from general funds.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Cory Lozier

Emergency Services Unit

UAS Program Commander