French Quarter MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# SECURITY & ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

## Meeting Notes

Thursday, 30 October 2025, 9:00 AM

*Bienville House, 320 Decatur Street, New Orleans, LA 70130*

1. Call to Order, Reading of the Agenda, and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM and the agenda was read into the record.

| COMMITTEE MEMBERS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| **Joshua** | Grippo | X | |
| **Frances** | Hegenberger | X | |
| **Jessica** | Dietz | X | |
| **Glade** | Bilby | X | |
| **Jane** | Cooper | X | |
| **Steve** | Caputo | | X |
| **Christian** | Pendleton | X | |
| **Maddie** | Charleston | X | |
| **Alex** | Fein | | X |

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES:

| GUESTS | | |
|---|---|---|
| **First** | **Last** | **Role** |
| **Michelle** | Courseault | FQMD Executive Director |
| **Shelby** | Ursu | FQMD Coordinator |
| **Cpt. Sammy** | Palumbo | NOPD 8th District |
| **Christine** | Bondio | FQMD Vice-Chair |
| **Austin** | March | Skydio |
| **Audrey** | Slade | Skydio |
| **Alex** | Dunkenberger | CAO Office |
| **Ethan** | Ellstead | MACCNO |

2. Public Comment:

**From:** Stephen Caputo <SCaputo@hotelmonteleone.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 2:11 PM
**To:** Michelle Courseault <executivedirector@fqmd.org>
**Subject:** Drone

For the Public comment I would be supportive of buying 1 Drone as a test and monitor its performance and number of deployments on a monthly basis through reports by NOPD at the Monthly SEC Committee meetings. All with the understanding that this Drone is for FQ use only. I would also say before approval that we need to know the total yearly cost including payroll to operate this drone and where does that funding come from

Thank you,
**Stephen Caputo**

3. Committee Chair's Comments & Guest Introductions

Chair Christian Pendleton thanked the Committee members and guests for their attendance.

4. Follow Up Discussion: 2026 Budget Proposal: Drones

Cpt. Sammy Palumbo reported that since Monday's Security & Enforcement Committee meeting, he has gotten updates on some of the Committee's unanswered questions. He stated that he spoke with the Office of Homeland Security Director, John Thomas, regarding the federal funds being pulled, noting that Director Thomas assured him that none of the federal grant money was slated to be used for the permanent barricades on Bourbon Street. Cpt. Palumbo added that he was informed that the administration is committed to paying for the permanent installation of the new barricades, but the order has not yet been placed. He stated that he is hoping to have all of the new barricades installed by April 2026.

Moving on, Alex Dunkenberger reported that he spoke with City Council about the Drones as First Responders (DFR) proposal, noting that he asked Councilman JP Morrell and Mayor-elect Helena Moreno to attend the upcoming Agreement Monitors

meeting. He added that he has not heard any feedback or opinions from Council regarding the drones. Cpt. Palumbo stated that the NOPD's current drone program has been running for a year with no issues or pushback from the public to date. He stressed that the drones are not a surveillance tool, but a response tool for the officers. Cpt. Palumbo noted that the policies for drone use are very strict, stating that if a drone needs to be on private property, a search warrant would first be obtained. He further explained that when a 911 call comes through the Skydio app, the drone pilot sitting at the computer monitoring the app will get a notification and will be able to launch or not launch the drone, depending on the situation at hand. He noted that 911 calls for service are not the only situations where these drones can be launched. Cpt. Palumbo stated that the drone pilot will be monitoring the Skydio app, as well as the Task Force app, so that the NOPD can track the benefits of utilizing drones on calls that are not coming through 911. He noted that the only autonomous part of the process is the drone flying to the location, adding that the drones can only be launched by the NOPD pilots. Cpt. Palumbo stated that the DFR program would help situational awareness for the officers before arriving on scene.

Mr. Pendleton thanked Cpt. Palumbo for getting more clarification to report back to the Committee. He stated that he still has reservations about committing a budget to this program at this point in time. Mr. Pendleton pointed out that the Sanitation Director recently announced budget cuts for 2026, meaning that the FQMD needs to be prepared to step in and address potential sanitation issues. He added that he thinks it would be wise as an organization to table this proposal until the FQMD finalizes 2026 budgets, knows the results of the Quarter for the Quarter vote on November 15th, and sees how the first few months of the new administration plays out. Jane Cooper agreed, stating that a budget adjustment can be made down the line if necessary. Ms. Cooper added that Key Performance Indices will need to be mapped out for this program so that the value of what these drones bring to public safety in the French Quarter can be measured. Cpt. Palumbo stated that other agencies who are currently running DFR programs track the percentage of calls responded to, percentage of calls where drones were able to handle incidents without officers, reductions in property crimes, and the freeing up of officers for more imperative issues. Austin March, a Skydio representative, added that there is a termination clause in the contract that would allow the program to be canceled, if after a year the drones do not provide the value sought. The Committee agreed that they would like to see the termination clause. Mr. Pendleton stated that the Committee will also need to consider the manpower of the pilots and the required training, as well as making sure that there is funding for these factors. Cpt. Palumbo noted that the pilot school training for the officers can be done within a week or two. He added that the Eighth District has several officers who are out on long-term disabilities who are able to go through the training and be able to fill in for the pilot positions. He informed the Committee that he will keep them updated with how Jefferson Parish's DFR program is running.

The Committee agreed that the NOPD should look into funding partnerships for this program so that the possibility of a joint venture can be explored. Mr. Pendleton stated that the group is in support of this proposal and understands the critical value that the DFR program would bring to improving public safety for the neighborhood, but at this point in time no definitive decision will be made, and the Committee agreed.

5. Motions –

    a. Consider a motion to recommend to the Finance & Development committee approval of the 2026 Budget *Drones* Proposal, for $_____ as presented.

No motion was made at this point in time.

6. New Business– To consider and take action upon any other matters that may properly come before the French Quarter Management District Security and Enforcement Committee

No new business was discussed.

7. Next Meeting Date:

The next scheduled meeting date of the Committee is Monday, November 17th, 2025, at 11:00 AM.

8. Adjournment

Mr. G. Bilby made a motion to adjourn. Frances Hegenberger seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.

**Background.** The New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) continues to operate with historically low staffing levels while managing more than **11,000 calls for service each year** in the French Quarter. The district's 18th-century street grid, high pedestrian volume, and frequent major events complicate response times and access for emergency vehicles.

These conditions often delay EMS, fire, and crisis teams from entering scenes safely, extending both response times and business interruptions. Each delay impacts residents, visitors, and workers alike, eroding confidence in safety and recovery readiness.

Under LA 25:799, FQMD is charged with enhancing safety and quality of life through supplemental programs. The Drone as First Responder (DFR) initiative offers a modern, cost-effective solution to an enduring challenge: faster visibility, safer response, and quicker recovery for the entire French Quarter community.

**Proposal – Drone as First Responder (DFR) –Program Overview**
The New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) has requested FQMD's partnership to help launch a Drone as First Responder (DFR) program specific to the French Quarter.

- **Goal: Integrate a drone response system that launches within seconds of 911 calls, providing live aerial video to responding officers and emergency teams.**
- **Coverage Area: Entire French Quarter (0.66 sq. mi.)**
- **Partnerships: FQMD, NOPD 8th District, and technology partner Axon/Skydio.**

This technology gives officers and dispatchers real-time aerial visibility within minutes of a 911 call—supporting faster decision-making, safer interventions, and more efficient coordination with EMS and mental health crisis teams.

**Operational Model**
The program will utilize the **"Hive Model"**, enabling continuous coverage using three drone docks located within the French Quarter.

**Key Features:**

- **Pilot Efficiency:** One remote pilot can manage up to two drones simultaneously, pending FAA multi-drone waiver approval.
- **Manpower Reduction:** Current special events require six pilots (two per drone). The new model cuts that requirement by half.
- **Continuous Coverage:** While one drone charges, another launches, ensuring uninterrupted aerial support.

- **Regulatory Path:** FAA waiver supported by Skydio's regulatory team, following the Las Vegas precedent (approved for one pilot per four drones).

**Evidence Base for Drone-Enhanced Public Safety.** Across multiple U.S. cities, Drone as First Responder (DFR) programs demonstrate measurable benefits:

- **Faster response**: Arrivals 2–4 minutes faster than ground units; first on scene for 70 percent + of priority calls.
- **Crime deterrence**: Public knowledge of aerial coverage reduces opportunistic offenses and increases perceived risk of apprehension.
- **Improved apprehension**: Agencies report higher arrest and case-closure rates through real-time coordination and aerial tracking.
- **Officer safety**: Live video reduces risk to responders and expedites EMS clearance.
- **Public trust**: Transparent reporting and data dashboards maintain community support for technology-assisted policing.

**How It Works.** Drones respond first to 911 calls, streaming live video to dispatchers, officers, and EMS. Supervisors can instantly assess if a scene is safe, if a mental health or EMS response is appropriate, and what level of police presence is required.

**Community Public Safety Benefits**

- **Crime Deterrence & Apprehension:** Drones enhance surveillance coverage and increase offender apprehension rates, reducing repeat offenses.
- **Behavioral Health Integration:** Provides early scene awareness for EMS and crisis response teams, aligning with FQMD's Safety • Outreach • Stability (SOS) initiative.
- **Officer Wellness:** Decreases physical dispatches by 20%, mitigating fatigue and improving retention.
- **Tourism & Resident Safety:** Real-time coverage of high-traffic nodes improves visitor confidence and quality of life.

**Faster Help, Smarter Response.** Drones can reach scenes in under two minutes—often before any ground unit arrives. Live video enables dispatchers and officers to assess what's happening, verify emergencies, and **declare scenes safe for EMS** more quickly, helping medical responders reach people faster.

**Protecting First Responders.** With NOPD staffing below historic levels, drones act as **force multipliers**. They help officers evaluate risks before entering tight spaces or large crowds, improving decision-making and reducing exposure to danger. Faster situational awareness allows limited patrol resources to cover more ground safely.

**Improving Mental Health Crisis Response.** Not every 911 call requires police enforcement. Drone footage helps dispatchers determine when a **behavioral health team** is the appropriate responder, reducing unnecessary police encounters and ensuring people in crisis receive the right kind of help.

**Helping Businesses Bounce Back Quickly.** After disturbances or public safety incidents, drones allow NOPD to **deem areas safe more quickly**, enabling businesses to reopen sooner. This minimizes downtime for restaurants, hotels, and storefronts following crowd incidents, investigations, or nearby emergencies.

**Supporting EMS & Multi-Agency Coordination.** Drones provide shared visibility for **NOPD, NOFD, and EMS**, reducing confusion and improving coordination. With a clear aerial view, agencies can act simultaneously—whether it's medical response, fire containment, or scene control.

**Budget Recommendation from SEC.**
Total Cost: $740,790.60, (may be divided into annual installments up to 5 years).

1- Does SEC support this proposal?
2- If yes, to what financial amount (All, or partial)?

<u>If recommended by SEC to support Drone Proposal,</u> Funding Source will be determined by the Finance & Development Committee either all or in part by City FQ EDD Trust Fund and / or by 2025-26 State Appropriations or a combination of both.

**Supplemental Data.**

- Impact Metrics
- Potential KPIs (Key Performance Indices)
- National data and research on drone outcomes
- Skydio vendor information

## Quantified Impact for the French Quarter

| Metric | Current Baseline | Projected DFR Outcome |
|---|---|---|
| Annual cost of crime | $6.86M | — |
| Annual savings | — | $683,000 |
| Net annual benefit | — | $436,000 |
| 5-year savings | — | $2.18M |
| Avoided dispatches | — | 2,100 per year |
| Vehicle theft | — | ↓ 25–50% |
| Response time | ~6 min | ↓ <2 min |

Data derived from CrimeGrade.org analysis, Axon/Skydio modeling, and Las Vegas DFR operational benchmarks.

## Possible KPI Performance Metrics

Performance may be monitored through a shared dashboard as determined in future SEC goal setting meetings with NOPD.

| KPI | Target |
|---|---|
| Reduction in calls for service | 20% |
| Reduction in response time | <2 minutes |
| Reduction in vehicle theft | 25% |
| Increase in apprehensions | +27% |
| Officer time savings | 2,100 avoided dispatches/year |

# Evidence Base for Drone-Enhanced Public Safety

## 1. CRIME DETERRENCE & PREVENTION

Source: ScienceDirect – *"A Framework for the Optimal Deployment of Police Drones Based on Risk Factors"* (Sugano et al., 2023)
City/Scope: International modeling of urban environments
**"Combining drones with police efforts could effectively control crime rates."**
Link: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0143622823003090

Source: Harvard National Security Journal – *"Drones as Crime-Fighting Tools in 2020: Legal and Normative Considerations"* (2018)
City/Scope: National policy context
**"Public knowledge of a drone-patrol scheme may actually deter crime by signaling increased visibility and likelihood of apprehension."**
Link: https://harvardnsj.org/2018/01/08/drones-as-crime-fighting-tools-in-2020-legal-and-normative-considerations/

Source: Police Chief Magazine (IACP) – *"All the Buzz About Drones as First Responders"* (Craig Allen, Apr 16 2025)
Scope: National overview
**"Drones are changing police operations—from responding to emergencies as first responders to collecting real-time intelligence for real-time crime centers."**
Link: https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/all-the-buzz-dfr/

Source: Elistair – *"Drones for Law Enforcement: Benefits & Use Cases"* (2024)
Scope: International public-safety study
**"Using drones in law enforcement helps improve public safety. It offers new ways to prevent crime and keep the public safe."**
Link: https://elistair.com/resources/police-drones/drones-for-police/

## 2. RESPONSE SPEED & APPREHENSION EFFECTIVENESS

Source: Government Technology (GovTech) – *"Drone Cops: The Future of Policing American Cities?"* (Nov 18 2024 / Chula Vista, CA)
**"In 2024, when responding to priority-one calls, drones have arrived at the scene on average in about 3.5 minutes—less than half of the nearly 8 minutes it takes a patrol unit to get there."**

Link: https://www.govtech.com/biz/data/drone-cops-the-future-of-policing-american-cities

Source: City of Brookhaven (Official Site) – *"Police Drones – Brookhaven GA,"* accessed 2025 / Brookhaven, GA
**"The average response time is under two minutes. Once on scene, the drone transmits live footage to responding officers and incident commanders."**
Link: https://www.brookhavenga.gov/police/page/police-drones

Source: Police1 – *"Inside Brookhaven PD's Drone as First Responder Program,"* Apr 4 2025 / Brookhaven, GA
**"In 2024, the agency's DFR program handled over 1,700 calls for service, with drones first on scene for 72 percent of calls and an average response time of 70 seconds."**
Link: https://www.police1.com/drone-as-first-responder/articles/dfr-in-action-inside-brookhaven-pds-drone-as-first-responder-program/

Source: City of Chula Vista – Press Coverage (Union-Tribune via city site), Oct 10 2019 / Chula Vista, CA
**"Chula Vista police drones were launched 1,000 times in less than a year and assisted in 130 arrests."**
Link: https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/police-department/programs/uav-drone-program/in-the-news

Source: SMU Law Journal of Air Law and Commerce – *"The Dawn of Drones and Robots in Law Enforcement"* (2022)
**"The use of drones by police correlated with a 10 percent reduction in overall crime reports, a 27 percent increase in arrests, and a 68 percent reduction in citations."**
Link: https://scholar.smu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4169&context=jalc

3. OFFICER & RESPONDER SAFETY

Source: Police Chief Magazine (IACP) – *"Drones for Tactical Response and Safety"* (2023 / National)
**"Drones offer an affordable way for most public-safety agencies to achieve real-time aerial situational awareness that enhances safety for all involved and improves operational effectiveness."**
Link: https://www.policechiefmagazine.org/drones-tactical-response/

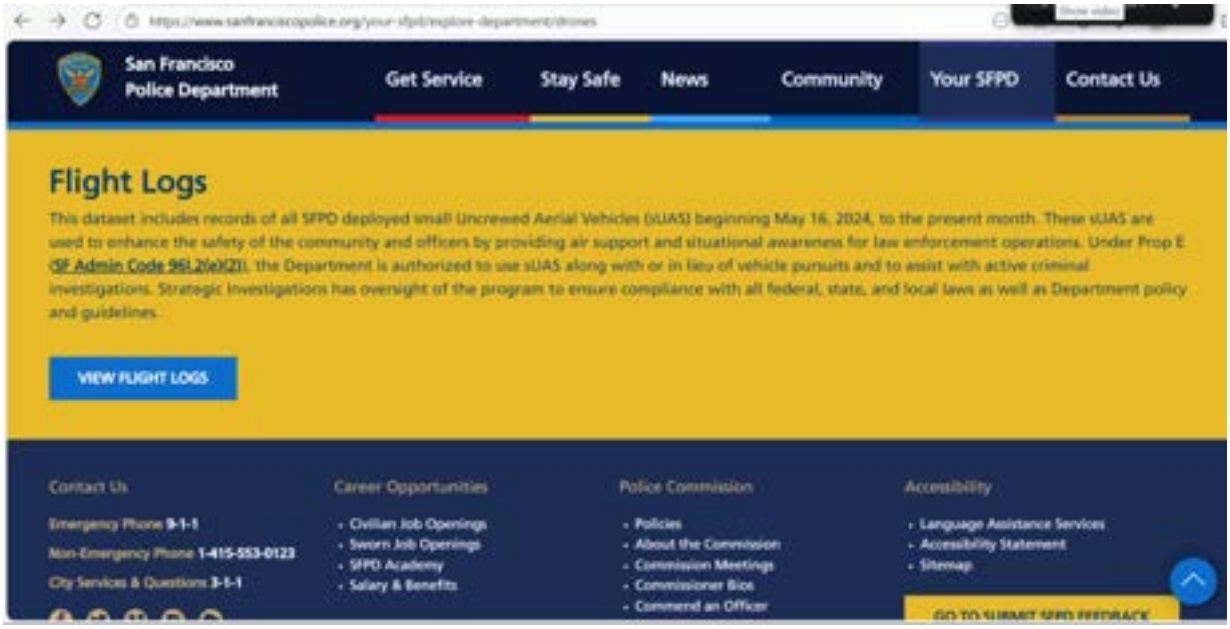
Source: FlytBase – *"Drones for Law Enforcement"* (2024 / Global case survey)
**"Drones are making incident-response operations not only safer and more effective but also remotely visible and manageable."**
Link: https://www.flytbase.com/blog/drones-for-law-enforcement

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation / National 911 Program – *"The Uses Continue to Emerge: Public Safety Drones and Considerations,"* 2023
**"Drones can assist with scene assessment, enhancing situational awareness while reducing risk to personnel and improving resource allocation."**
Link: https://www.911.gov/assets/The-Uses-Continue-to-Emerge--Public-Safety-Drones-and-Considerations.pdf

4. COMMUNITY TRUST & TRANSPARENCY

Source: University of Nevada Las Vegas – *"Public Attitudes about UAV Usage in Police Work: A Comparative Case Study of Mesa County Residents,"* Apr 2024 / Mesa County, CO
**"Public support for aerial drones in police work is highest when used for search and rescue, tactical operations, and crime-scene investigations."**
Link: https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/media/document/2024-04/Public-Attitudes-about-UAV-Usage-in-Police-Work-A-Comparative-Case-Study-of-Mesa-County-Residents-V1.pdf

Source: City of Chula Vista – *"Open Data and Documents (Drone First Responder Program)"* (2024 / Chula Vista, CA)
**"The Chula Vista Police Department's Drone First Responder Program includes published flight data and policy documents to ensure transparency and public trust."**
Link: https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/police-department/programs/uav-drone-program/open-data-documents


San Francisco
Police Department
Get Service
Stay Safe
News
Community
Your SFPD
Contact Us
Flight Logs
This dataset includes records of all SFPD deployed small Uncrewed Aerial Vehicles (sUAS) beginning May 16, 2024, to the present month. These sUAS are used to enhance the safety of the community and officers by providing air support and situational awareness for law enforcement operations. Under Prop E (SF Admin Code 96I.2(e)(2)), the Department is authorized to use sUAS along with or in lieu of vehicle pursuits and to assist with active criminal investigations. Strategic Investigations has oversight of the program to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and local laws as well as Department policy and guidelines.
VIEW FLIGHT LOGS
Contact Us
Emergency Phone 9-1-1
Non-Emergency Phone 1-415-553-0123
City Services & Questions 3-1-1
Career Opportunities
Civilian Job Openings
Sworn Job Openings
SFPD Academy
Salary & Benefits
Police Commission
Policies
About the Commission
Commission Meetings
Commissioner Bios
Commend an Officer
Accessibility
Language Assistance Services
Accessibility Statement
Sitemap

Skydio

# Real results from real deployments


### SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPT

42% reduction in auto theft
500+ arrests
30% drop in overall crime


### REDMOND POLICE DEPT

88 sec average response time
48% faster than officers on P1
25% of CFS cleared without patrol


### LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPT

590 flights in 11 weeks
47% of CFS received DFR
38% of CFS cleared without patrol


### OKLAHOMA CITY POLICE DEPT

40% flights for fire-related calls


F

Overall Crime Grade™

| | |
|---|---|
| Violent Crime Grade | F |
| Property Crime Grade | D- |
| Other Crime Grade | F |

What crimes are included?

$6.86 million

Cost of Crime™ for French Quarter, New Orleans, LA

In 2025, crime will cost **$2,768** per household.

More cost data

Crime Grades

A+ (dark green) areas are safest

Violent Crime Rates

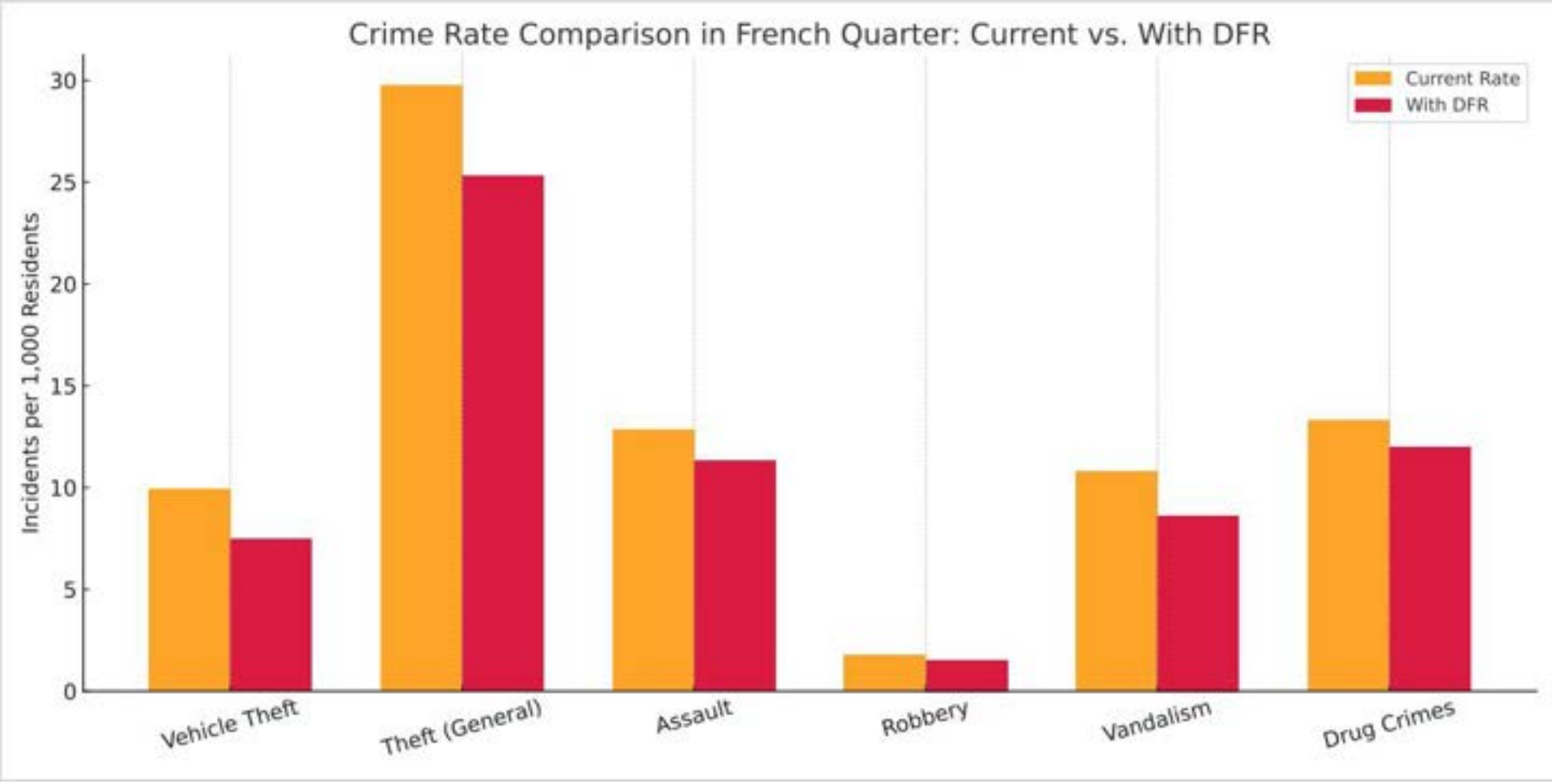
| Crime Type | Crime Rate |
|---|---|
| Assault | 12.83 |
| Robbery | 1.736 |
| Rape | 0.8170 |
| Murder | 0.3903 |
| Total Violent Crime | 15.77 (F) |

Property Crime Rates

| Crime Type | Crime Rate |
|---|---|
| Theft | 29.76 |
| Vehicle Theft | 9.919 |
| Burglary | 8.360 |
| Arson | 0.0996 |
| Total Property Crime | 48.13 (D-) |

Other Crime Rates

| Crime Type | Crime Rate |
|---|---|
| Kidnapping | 0.1961 |
| Drug Crimes | 13.27 |
| Vandalism | 10.78 |
| Identity Theft | 0.0553 |
| Animal Cruelty | 0.1332 |
| Total "Other" Rate | 24.44 (F) |


Crime Rate Comparison in French Quarter: Current vs. With DFR
Incidents per 1,000 Residents
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
Current Rate
With DFR
Vehicle Theft
Theft (General)
Assault
Robbery
Vandalism
Drug Crimes

Projected Crime Rate Reductions with DFR Deployment

| Crime Type | Current Rate (/1,000) | Projected Rate With DFR | % Reduction |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vehicle Theft | 9.92 | 7.44 | 25% |
| Theft (General) | 29.76 | 25.3 | 15% |
| Assault | 12.83 | 11.29 | 12% |
| Robbery | 1.74 | 1.53 | 12% |
| Vandalism | 10.78 | 8.62 | 20% |
| Drug Crimes | 13.27 | 11.94 | 10% |

Skydio

# Drone as First Responder

## Value Assessment for New Orleans Police Department, French Quarter

Skydio

# DFR Outcomes:

Save
time
money
resources
Lives

**01**
Recover patrol time

**02**
Accelerate call resolution

**03**
Minimize Use-of-Force incidents

**04**
Reduce fatal OIS exposure

**05**
Avoid officer injuries

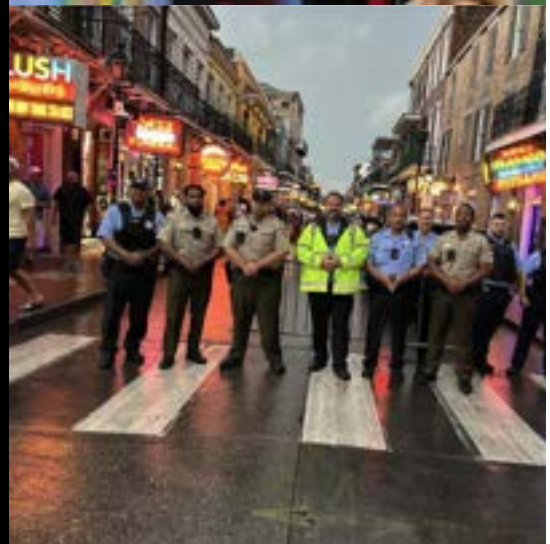
**06**
Reduce violent crime

Skydio

# As the historic heart of NOLA, the French Quarter fields over 19 million tourists annually[1]

- Mardi Gras alone accounts for close to 1 million
- The French Quarter is home to over 200 bars and restaurants, 130+ hotels, and major nightlife corridors like Bourbon and Royal streets
- Narrow 18th-century streets and heavy pedestrian traffic make emergency response times uniquely challenging

Source: [neworleans.com](neworleans.com)



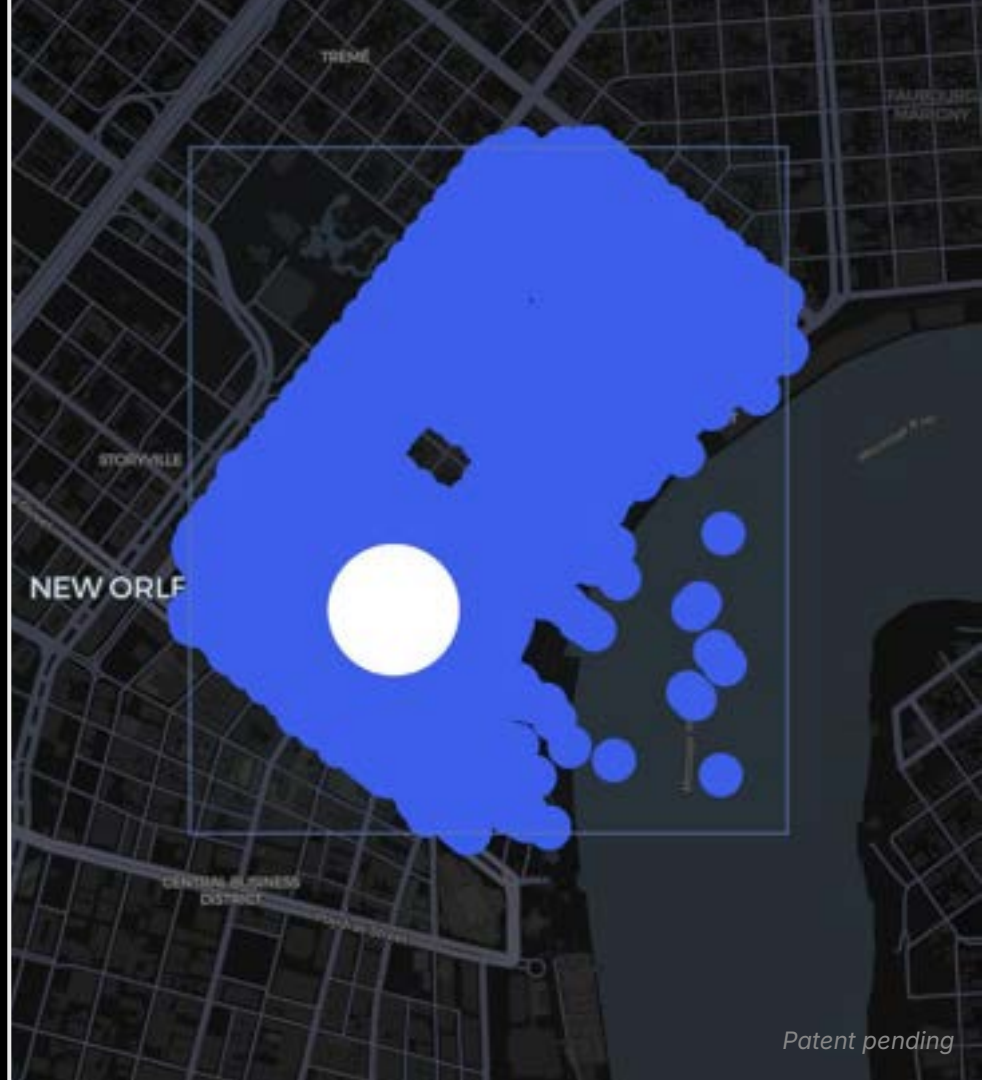


The French Quarter gets ~11,600 calls for service annually.

Hive Location: **PD Station**

**Avoid 0′ and 50′ Ceilings**

**X10 with NightSense** for 24/7 Ops



# Skydio's DFR Simulation takes the guesswork out of Dock deployment based on real French Quarter data.

## Calls for Service

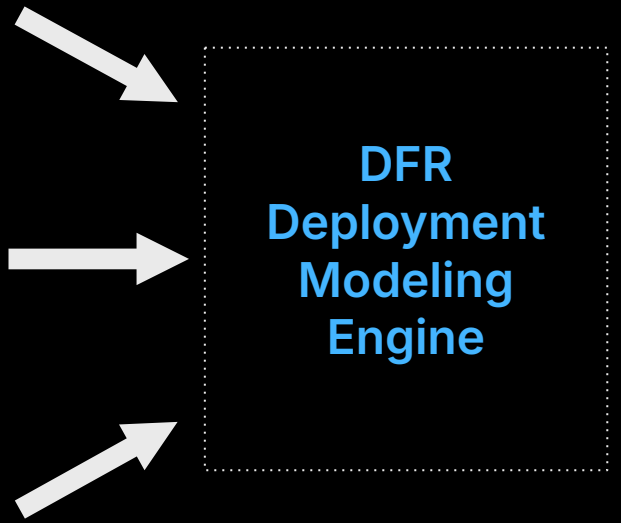
- What are the important call priority classifications for drone response?
- Is there a contingency for simultaneous calls?
- What is the average call duration?

## Airspace

- How large is the coverage area?
- Where are the FAA's no fly zones?
- Are there waivers in place to enable BVLOS flight?

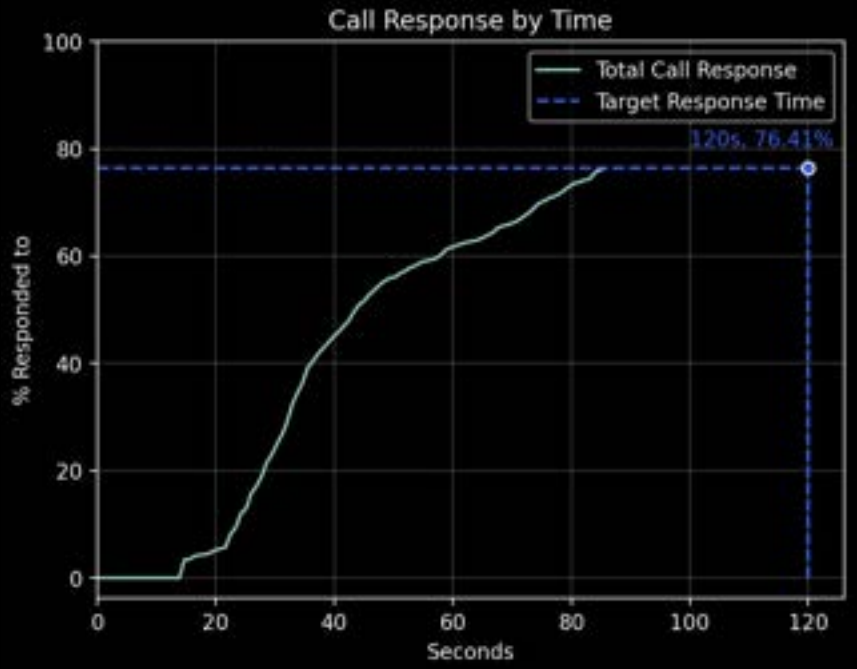
## Vehicle Parameters

- What is the flight time?
- What is the average cruise speed?
- What is the expected battery life?
- What is the takeoff time?



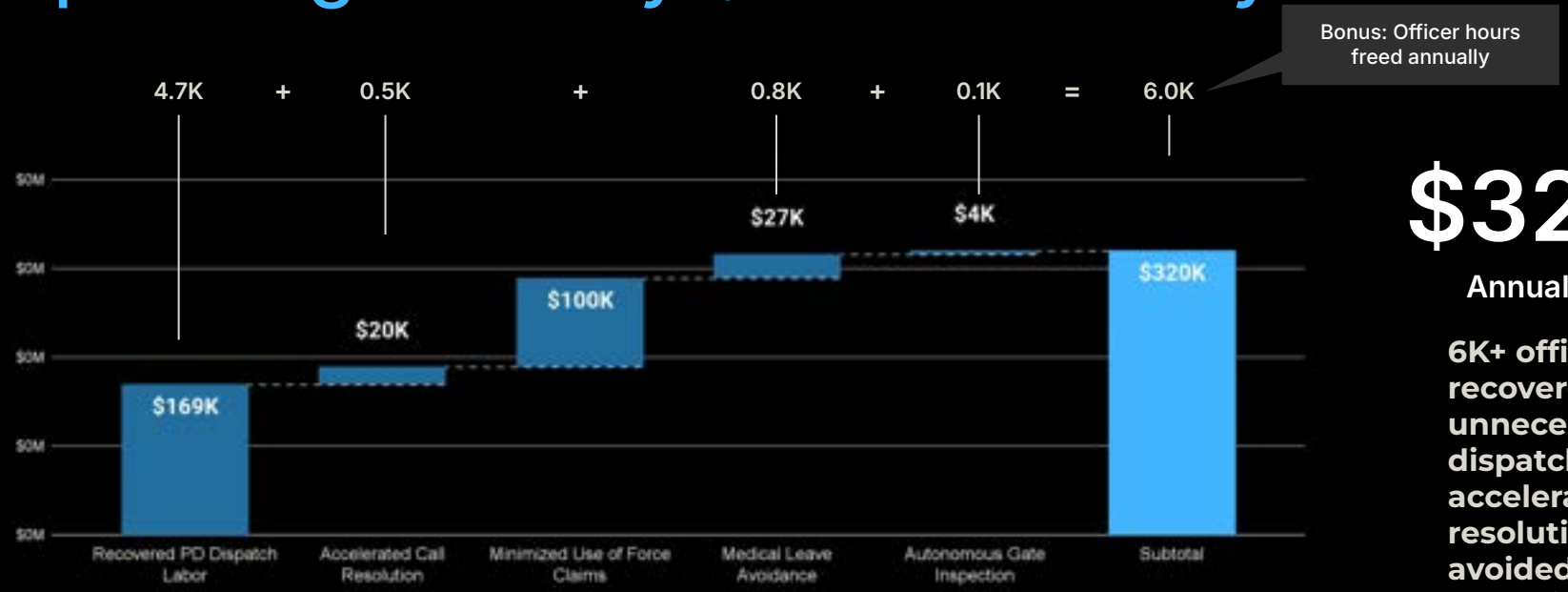
# French Quarter Deployment

3 Docks in 1 Hives could respond to 8.8K calls under 120 seconds, which is 76% of all CFS.




Skydio

# 3 docks in the French Quarter could reduce operating costs by $320K annually




**$320K**

**Annual Value**

**6K+ officer hours recovered from unnecessary dispatches, accelerated call resolution, avoided medical downtime — available to redistribute to patrol.**

Skydio

# Reduce unnecessary dispatches, recovering up to 4.7K hours of patrol time valued at $169K in total salary and benefits

DFR drives efficient resource allocation in deployment areas, recovering time spent on unnecessary activities that can be redistributed to other priority responses

## Dispatch Data

New Orleans Police Department (LA) receives 11,599 calls for service annually. If 90% are drone-addressable and 21% of those can be resolved without deploying patrols[1], an estimated **2,100 dispatches could be avoided each year.**

Drone-clearable calls run longer than the average 911 call. For these lower-priority events, response times are ~27 minutes and call durations are ~37 minutes[2], which is why they create a strong opportunity for drones to reduce officer workload.

## Surplus Calculation

With 2 officers responding to every call at an average cost of $36/hr[3], **2,400 hours of officer dispatch time** *(2,100 dispatches * (27min + 37min))* **equates to $169K in salary and benefits.**

With DFR response times of 120 seconds or less, a drone could clear these calls, **recovering upwards of 4,700 individual patrol hours**.
*(2,400 * 2 officers)*

(1) Median of Skydio National Avoided Dispatch Database
(2) Skydio National CFS Response and Call Time Benchmarks
(3) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Database: Police Officer Wage by Location

Skydio

# Accelerate call resolution with drones alongside patrol, freeing up to 0.5K hours of patrol time valued at $20K in total salary and benefits

DFR delivers real-time intelligence during priority calls, enabling faster, more decisive officer action that shortens call duration and free officers for the next response

## Dispatch Data

Of the 11,599 total calls, 90% are drone-addressable, and ~ 79% of those still require patrol where drones and officers respond together.

With drones typically arriving within 88 seconds[1] of dispatch, officers receive live intel before they reach the scene. That advanced awareness allows them to act more decisively and resolve incidents faster.

## Surplus Impact

Even a conservative 2-min gain per call adds up. With live overhead video, X10 guides officers to the safest and fastest approach on scene and allows them to skip time-sinks like clearing yards or rooftops, altogether shortening call duration by 300 hours every year.
*(11,599 calls * 90% * 79% * 2min)*

With 2 officers on each call at $36/hr[2], **time saved could equal up to $20K in salary and benefits.**
*(300 dispatch hrs * 2 officers * $36)*

(1) Redmond PD
(2) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Database: Police Officer Wage by Location

Skydio

# Reduce use of force claims by 50% and avoid $100K/year in potential settlements

Real time intelligence drives decision making that helps calibrate a measured use of force response, e.g. lethal vs. non-lethal, to minimize regretful engagements

## Rationale for 50%

Chula Vista Police Department reports that 50% of their use of force incidents are preventable with DFR

## Value Calculation

| *Metric* | *Outcome* |
|---|---|
| Annual Use of Force incidents at New Orleans Police Department (LA)[1] | 9 |
| Potential annual UoF allegations against the agency (39% of UoF incidents result in hospitalization[2]) | 4 |
| Sustained complaints that result in payout[3] | 10% |
| Average claims payout per DOJ | $515K |
| **Cost avoidance**<br>***(4 allegations * 10% payout * 50% reduction) * $515K*** | **$100K** |

(1) Estimated using national benchmarks (NLM, Memphis PD, TMI Police Funding DB), scaled to agency call volume and location
(2) National Library of Medicine
(3) Memphis PD

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# Reduce officer injuries and avoid $27K per year in medical leave payments

Preventing unnecessary use of force incidents in hotspots leads to a reduction in sustained minor and major injuries to officers responding to calls for service

## Injury Data

On average, UoF & assault related injuries impact 3 officers per year, resulting in total medical leave accrual of approx. 1,500 hours per year. [1]

At an average officer pay rate of $36/hour, medical leave incurred an estimated cost of $54K annually

## Medical Leave Avoidance Calculation

| *Med Leave Incurred* | *Officer Rate* | *Reduction in UOF* | *Cost Avoidance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1,500 hrs | $36/hr | 50% | $27K |

800 labor hours recovered for patrol
$27K in medical leave costs avoided

(1) UoF estimated using national benchmarks (NLM, Memphis PD, TMI Police Funding DB), scaled to agency call volume and location; officer assaults estimated using national benchmarks (FBI CDE LEOKA) scaled to agency call volume and location

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# Automate gate inspections, recovering ~113 hours of security time and $4K+ in total salary and benefits

DFR replaces nightly and special-event foot/ATV gate checks with rapid, documented fly-bys, freeing time for priority responses.

## Inspection Data

The French Quarter closes 16 gates along Bourbon Street from Canal to St. Ann nightly.[1] Walking this nightly route takes ~11 minutes (about 0.5 miles), equating to ~67 hours/year of inspections.

On special-event days, it takes 115 minutes (about 5 miles) to cover inspection of all 29 gates. With 24 events/year[2] this adds 46 hours/year.

## Surplus Calculation

With a total of 113 manual inspection hours/year, and a fully burdened wage of $36/hour[3], that equals ~$4,000 in labor offset with DFR.

ATV operating cost avoidance adds incremental value as well. Since ~50% of all checks are done by ATV[1], French Quarter PD can avoid driving ~150 miles/year across daily and special-event routes. *((0.5mi * 365 days * 50%) + (5mi * 24 days * 50%).* 150 miles × $0.21/mile[4] of fuel cost ≈ $31/year.

(1) Captain Palumbo
(2) Count of all French Quarter closures including Mardi Gras, French Quarter Fest, Super Bowl, Southern Decadence, NYE, etc.
(3) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Database: Police Officer Wage by Location
(4) AAA

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# DFR delivers 6,000+ hours of officer time back to New Orleans Police Department (LA)

**3**

Incremental officers sworn

**5K**

Incremental CFS responded to

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# Reducing fatal officer involved shootings by 50% will boost mental health and retention

Real time aerial intelligence helps officers visualize scenes and unmask danger, enhancing officer safety while increasing chances of quick subject apprehension.

## Officer wellness matters

Many officers involved in shootings suffer from post-shooting trauma—a form of post-traumatic stress disorder that may include guilt, depression, and even suicidal thoughts.[1]

## Reducing OIS is priceless

Loss of life is devastating, priceless, and irreplaceable. Of American police officers who kill a suspect in the line of duty, 70% leave law enforcement within five years.[2]

(1) Police Responses to Officer Involved Shooting; (2) Officer-Involved Shooting: Reaction Patterns, Response Protocols, and Psychological Intervention Strategies

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# Improve community relationships in historically violent neighborhoods

Earn the trust of the public, winning hearts and minds by making communities safer through solving more violent crime.

## Trust via technology

Because the police typically have a very low solve rate in [communities of color], [those communities] have a higher level of distrust for the police.[1]

Using technology to increase arrest rates for violent crimes in problem areas will build greater trust between those communities and law enforcement.

## Trust is priceless

"Drones have already assisted SFPD in numerous cases, including a sexual assault suspect that was arrested, several auto burglary suspects that were arrested, Fourth of July mayhem that with the use of drones, we were able to basically de-escalate the situation and bring it to a successful and peacful resolution very quickly."

Chief Bill Scott
San Francisco Police Department

1) a16z Podcast - Drones, Data, and Deterrence: Technology's Role in Public Safety;

# Additional Value from DFR in the French Quarter

- Event Monitoring
  - *Real-time aerial visibility over dense crowds and blocked streets, enabling faster response and safer management during major French Quarter celebrations*
- Natural disaster Response
  - *Rapid aerial visibility for evacuations, flood monitoring, and damage assessment when roads are blocked*
- Critical Incident Response
  - *Instant overwatch and coordination during active terrorism threats*

# Questions

# DFR

## changes outcomes.

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# DFR Results from Lakewood, CO

## First 8 weeks, 417 DFR Flights

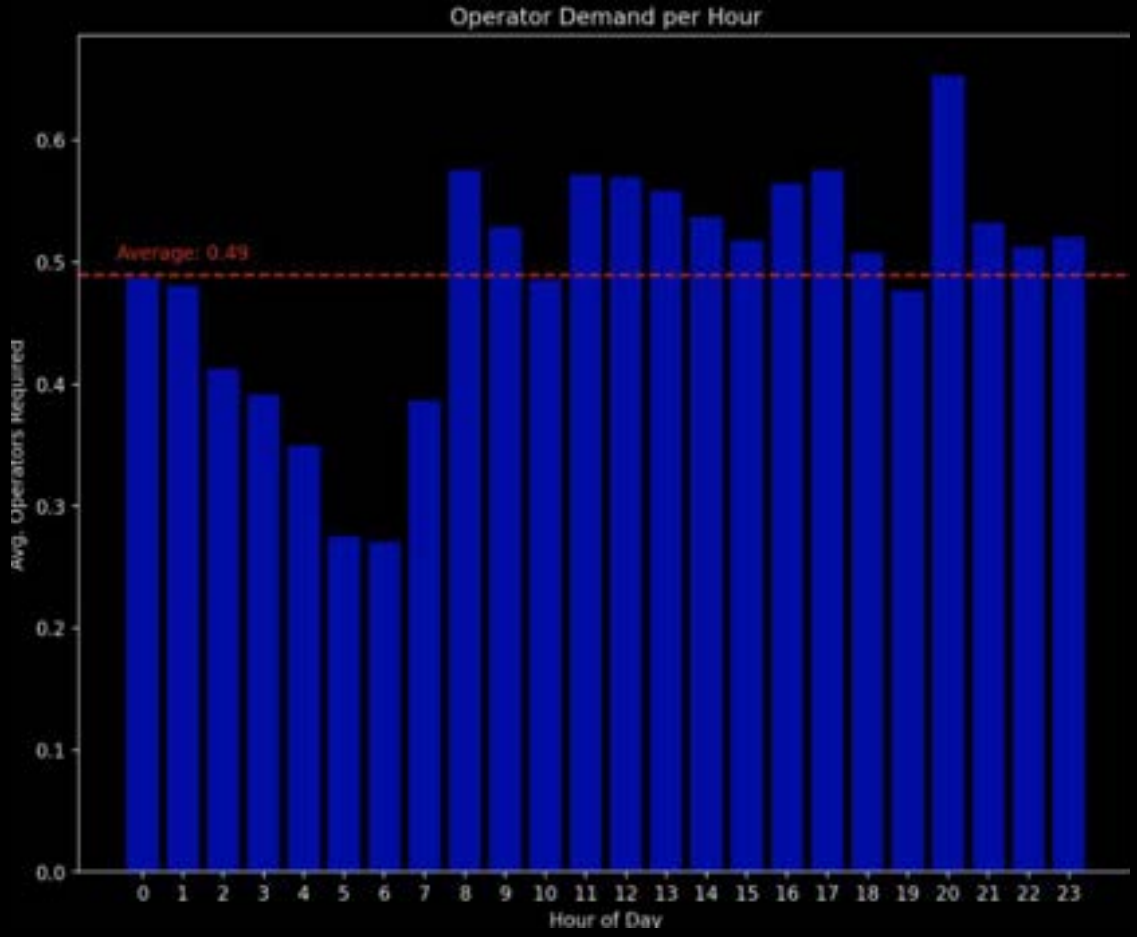

**47%**
Of all CFS in that area received a DFR response

**38%**
Of CFS cleared with no patrol response

**74%**
Drone was 1st on scene

**44**
Arrests

# 76% Coverage: 1 operator required to staff peak demand




**Attention Assumptions:**
100% during transit
100% while on station

skydio.com/DFR

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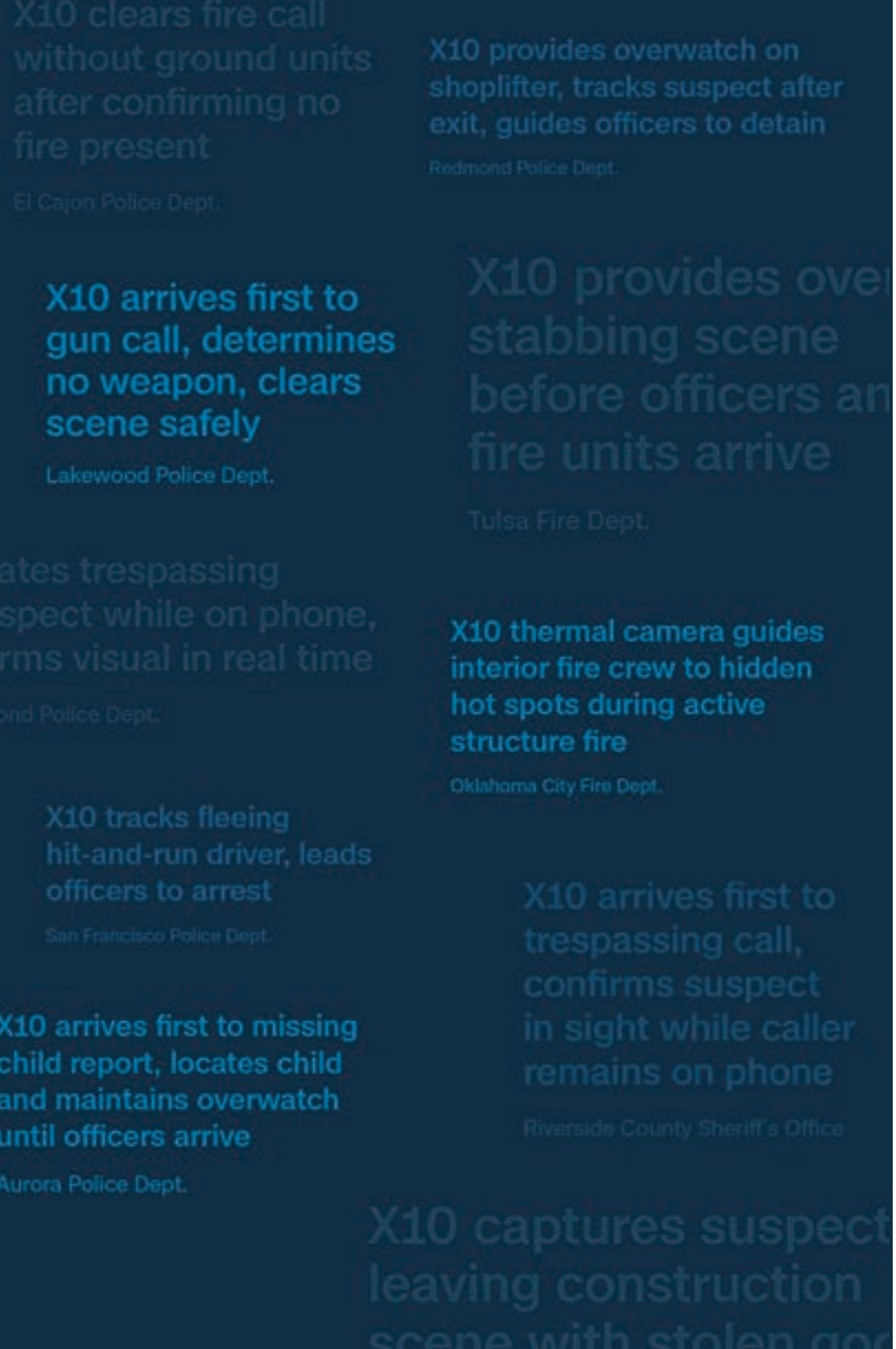
DFR

# Drone as First Responder in action: Real results




Law enforcement leaders across the country are facing a shared challenge: how to maintain (and improve) public safety with diminishing resources. Chronic staffing shortages, often in the hundreds of officers, have stretched departments thin, forcing difficult decisions about where and how to deploy personnel. Amid these constraints, more agencies are deploying a solution that doesn't depend solely on putting more officers on the streets. They're turning to Drone as First Responder (DFR) programs and Real-Time Investigation Centers (RTICs) to make existing personnel more effective.

**The outcome? Data that's hard to ignore.**

# SFPD's RTIC: Data-driven results

In San Francisco, where the department is short 500 officers, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) has responded with a strategy centered on DFR and real-time intelligence.

Since launching in 2024, SFPD's RTIC & DFR program have helped deliver:

**30%**
drop in overall crime in 2025

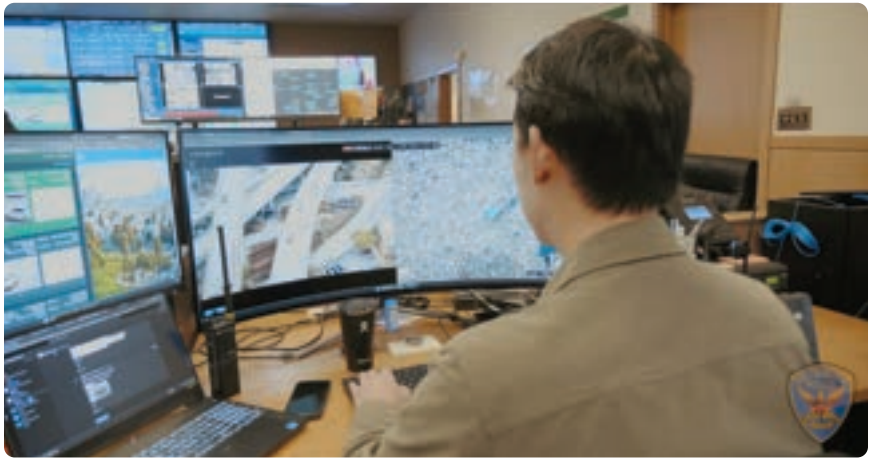
**42%**
reduction in auto theft

**500+**
arrests, including:

**166**
stolen vehicle recoveries

**80**
robbery arrests

These aren't just crime statistics—they reflect a fundamental shift in how the SFPD addresses crime in progress.



> "I think we're just scratching the surface. This is probably one of the most significant paradigm shifts in policing that I've seen in my police career."
>
> **Commander Thomas Maguire**
> San Francisco Police Department

# Faster, smarter response

From the moment a 911 call is placed, it can take 5–10 minutes for ground units to arrive, depending on traffic, time of day, and call volume. In those minutes, the crime may no longer be in progress, suspects may flee, and the opportunity for a timely resolution can slip away.

With DFR, that gap closes quickly.

In many deployments, drones are overhead in less than 90 seconds, often before an officer has been assigned to the call. Over the last year, Redmond (WA) Police Department's DFR program average time to scene with a drone for Priority 1 calls is 88 seconds, 48% faster than the average officer response. And for Priority 2 calls, drones arrive in 1/3rd the time of an officer.

**88 seconds**

**time to get drone deployed and overhead**

**48%**

**faster avg. time to scene for drones vs. officers responding to Priority 1 calls**

Watch video

**"Since implementing our DFR program, we've reduced ground response by 25%, giving officers more time for proactive patrol and emergency calls. It's become a city-wide asset, now supporting Fire Department calls as well."**

**Chief Darrell Lowe**
Redmond Police Department

In March 2025, Lakewood Police Department (CO) launched the first phase of it's DFR program with one drone on one rooftop. The program goals include faster response to high-priority calls, improved officer safety, and more efficient resource allocation.

The results came quickly. In just 11 weeks:

**590**
**DFR flights–153% of their total drone flights from all of 2024**

**77%**
**of the time, the drone was first on scene**

**47%**
**of calls for service in the coverage area received a DFR response**

**59**
**arrests directly linked to DFR–averaging five per week**

**38%**
**of those calls for service were cleared without any patrol response**

Lakewood's results reinforce the value of DFR as a force multiplier, not only for arrests but for freeing up patrol officers and allowing smarter prioritization of resources.

This accelerated time of arrival provides dispatchers, responding officers, and command staff with immediate situational awareness, enabling them to observe suspects in the act, track their movements in real time, and direct officers safely to the scene, as seen in a recent organized retail theft apprehension in San Francisco.

Watch video

"In this case, when you're able to solve something within the first 5 minutes, recover all the property, your case is that much stronger."

**Commander Thomas Maguire**
San Francisco Police Department

# Reducing risk and increasing efficiency

DFR doesn't just support arrests. It improves officer availability and strengthens cases with real-time evidence capture.

In one notable case, a drone followed a stolen vehicle throughout city streets while the suspect cold-plated the vehicle and tinted the windows. Officers used spike strips to deflate the tires and effected an arrest within an hour of the original call. The drone captured the suspect's movements in real time, providing investigators and prosecutors with high-quality video to support the case.

Watch video

DFR reduces unnecessary officer dispatches. Chief Darrell Lowe of the Redmond Police Department reports that drones arriving on scene allow them to cancel officer response 25% of the time, freeing units for higher-priority incidents or proactive community engagement.

Other real-world stories include:

### Drone helps officers avoid vehicle pursuit

The drone located a subject who fled a scene, maintaining visual and avoiding a vehicle pursuit with ground units, before he crashed into another vehicle and fled on foot. The suspect was quickly apprehended.

### Officers guided to missing man by drone

Officers were unable to locate a missing 80-year-old man with dementia in a wooded area. A drone was deployed and quickly guided them to his location. He was found safe and reunited with his family.

### Man in crisis located on rooftop

A man in crisis on a rooftop was safely located by the drone, allowing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers to engage and de-escalate the situation.

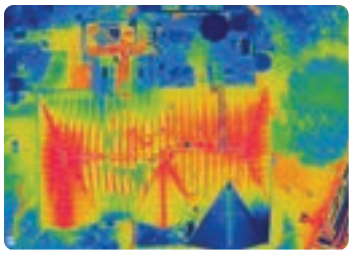
### Subject quickly located and safely apprehended

A drone was deployed from a dock to locate a subject in a battery. The operator was able to quickly identify the female subject and direct officers to her location, where she was apprehended without incident.

# Broader applications: A tool for the entire public safety ecosystem

DFR isn't just for police. Fire and law enforcement often respond to the same calls, whether it's a traffic collision, hazardous situation, or medical emergency. However, they usually arrive with different information, sourced from various callers and routed through separate dispatch systems. Disconnected information can result in delays, miscommunication, or missed opportunities to coordinate a more effective response.

With DFR arriving on the scene, the real-time information is streamlined and shared across all first responders. Everyone, whether in a patrol vehicle, fire engine, or command center, has access to the same view and situational context. In Oklahoma City, approximately 40% of their DFR deployments are for fire-related calls, with either police or fire personnel operating the drone.



Thermal sensors on drones can assess structural integrity before sending firefighters to perform vertical ventilation

A recent OKCPD deployment involved a call from a train engineer who believed he had struck someone but was unsure where the incident occurred. The RTIC immediately launched a drone from a Dock atop a nearby fire station. Within minutes, the operator located the injured person and guided fire and medical personnel to the scene, where they were able to render lifesaving aid. This multi-agency response demonstrates how DFR expands operational impact beyond law enforcement.

Watch video

"

**It also allows us to get the right resources there so if they see something that's critical, that needs special units that go there to help with mental health, to go help with medical, or help with fire, now we're going to be able to send the right resources to take care of the problem the right way.**

**Captain Jason Bussert**
Oklahoma City Police Department

“

**This technology is the future of policing for SFPD officers. By using their training and judgment, supported by the best tools available, they can help keep our communities safe. As we continue to fully staff the RTIC, using drones and first responders as a force multiplier will give officers more support and help ensure that every neighborhood benefits from smarter, faster, and more coordinated public safety.”**

**Mayor Daniel Lurie**
San Francisco, CA



# Better outcomes, restored trust

The success of DFR and RTIC demonstrates what’s possible when agencies prioritize real-time data and rapid response. These tools don’t replace first responders. They multiply their impact.

In New York City, the NYPD reports making 200 arrests related to subway surfing and estimates that 200 lives may have been saved because of the DFR program. In addition to enforcement, the department shares drone footage with families as part of a broader strategy to raise awareness and prevent future incidents.

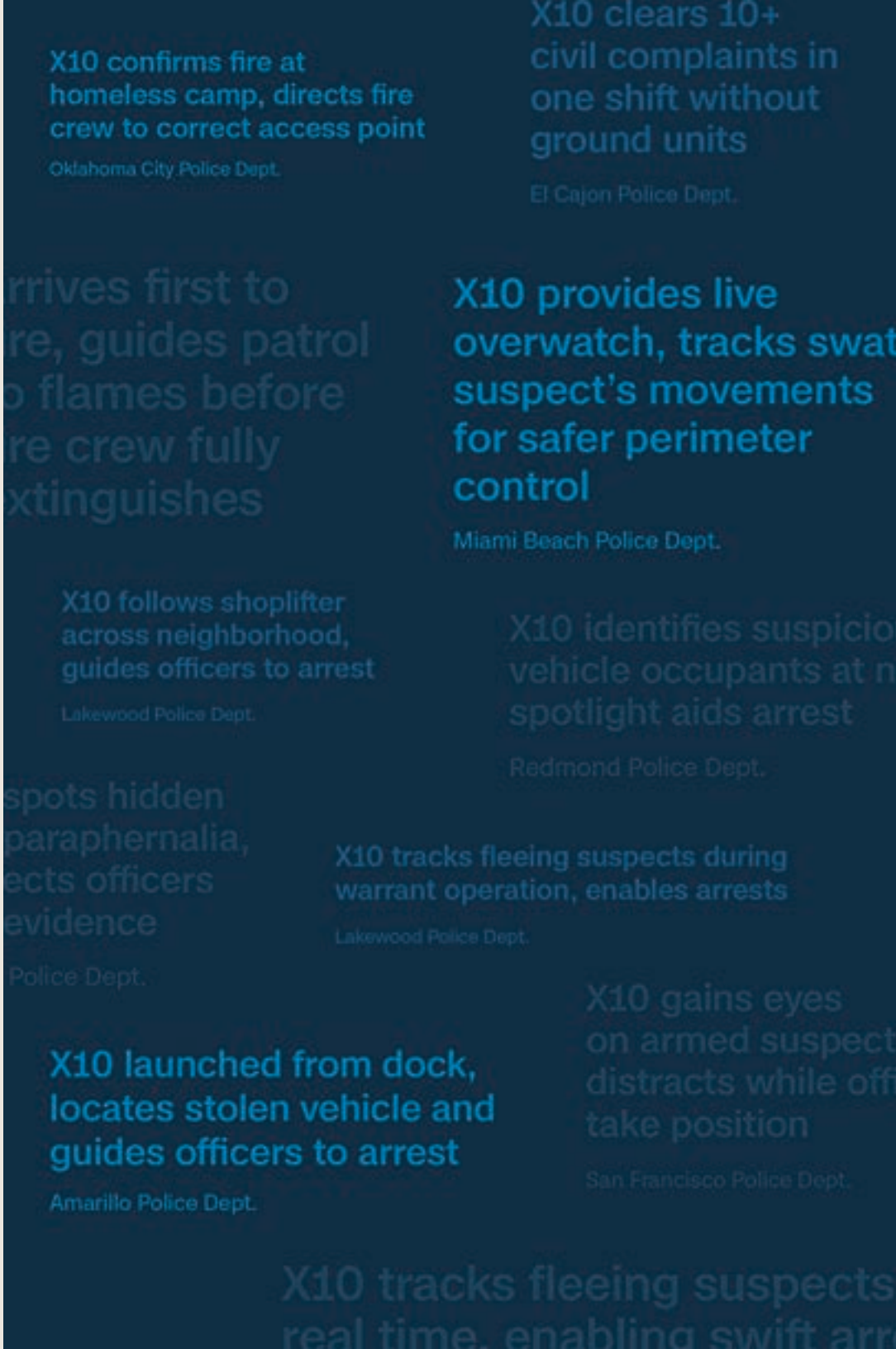
Watch video

NYC Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Kaz Daughtry describes the city’s strategy as rooted in interagency coordination, real-time intelligence, and cutting-edge technology. Drones are seen as a force multiplier—saving lives, protecting infrastructure, and keeping first responders safe.

As law enforcement leaders look toward the future, the question isn't whether departments can afford to invest in these capabilities—it's whether they can afford not to, in a time when every second, every officer, and every resource counts. Smarter policing starts with smarter tools.

**The promise of DFR is not just in the lives it saves, but in what it delivers: better outcomes, stronger communities, and a safer tomorrow.**

**Contact us today to learn more**
Run a customized DFR Simulation using your agency's real call data and see how deployment would work in your jurisdiction.



Outlook

## Drone

**From** Stephen Caputo <SCaputo@hotelmonteleone.com>
**Date** Wed 10/29/2025 2:11 PM
**To** Michelle Courseault <executivedirector@fqmd.org>

For the Public comment I would be supportive of buying 1 Drone as a test and monitor its performance and number of deployments on a monthly basis through reports by NOPD at the Monthly SEC Committee meetings. All with the understanding that this Drone is for FQ use only. I would also say before approval that we need to know the total yearly cost including payroll to operate this drone and where does that funding come from Thank you,

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