



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE**  
**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW DRONE ORDINANCE IN EFFECT SOON**  
***City Council Adopted Ordinance in Response to OC Grand Jury Report***

May 18, 2017....San Clemente, California...On May 2, 2017, the San Clemente City Council approved a new ordinance regarding the use of unmanned aircraft (UA), commonly referred to as “drones,” in response to the 2015-2016 Orange County Grand Jury Report, “Drones: Know Before You Fly.” The report cited the increased use of drones since December 2015 and opined that their unregulated use will pose significant threats to public safety and privacy. On October 17, 2016, the City of San Clemente provided its response to the findings and recommendations required of the Orange County Grand Jury. Part of these recommendations included the adoption of an ordinance that sets operating requirements on the time, place, and manner of drone operations. The City’s UA ordinance will go into effect on June 1, 2017.

The City’s ordinance complies with the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) finalized notice of proposed rulemaking entitled “Operation and Certification of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems,” which imposes operating and certification requirements to allow small unmanned aircraft systems in the National Airspace System for non-hobby purposes and non-recreational purposes. Numerous instances of drone interference with fire and emergency

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services have been documented. The City concurs with the FAA that the City Council has police powers and authority to issue regulations related to land use, zoning, privacy, trespass, and law enforcement operations. The public necessity, convenience, and general welfare justify the addition of Chapter 8.82 to the Health and Safety Code as provided under Chapter 1.01, Code Adoption, of the San Clemente Municipal Code.

To view a copy of the City's UA ordinance, visit this link:

<http://san-clemente.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=36578>

To view a copy of the Orange County Grand Jury report, visit this link:

[www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/2015\\_2016\\_GJreport/2016-05-26\\_Website\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/2015_2016_GJreport/2016-05-26_Website_Report.pdf)

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