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MAYOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS
1245 3RD Street
San Francisco, California 94158



WILLIAM SCOTT
CHIEF OF POLICE

August 5, 2021

Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Pl
San Francisco, CA 94102

President Walton and Members:

Re: S.F. Administrative Code 19B.7, Exigency Report: Joint Search Operation and Unmanned Aerial Support (UAS/Drone) Involvement on June 7, 2021

Chapter 19B of the San Francisco Administrative Code (“Chapter 19B”) was enacted in August 2019. Under Section 19B.7, the San Francisco Police Department (“SFPD” or “Department”) is required to report to the Board of Supervisors the acquisition or use of Surveillance Technology, as defined by Chapter 19B, in exigent circumstances.

On June 7, 2021, the Department participated in a multi-agency search for a missing 84-year-old person where the Marin County Sheriff’s Office’s Small Unmanned Aerial System Team used and operated an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), commonly known as a drone. At no time did SFPD members operate or use the UAS directly, nor did SFPD members acquire the UAS. But SFPD members aiding with the terrain search benefitted from observations and information provided by Marin County Sheriff’s Deputies operating the UAS.

As the Department partnered with the Marin County Sheriff’s Department’s use of its Surveillance Technology, as defined by Chapter 19B, the Department issues this 19B.7 Exigency Report to the Board of Supervisors.

As required, this exigency report will provide an overview to confirm the following:

- Use of the Surveillance Technology was solely to respond to an exigent circumstance
- The use of the Surveillance Technology ceased within seven days
- Data from the Surveillance Technology was not retained by SFPD
- Data from the Surveillance Technology was not disclosed to a third party

Use of the Surveillance Technology was solely to respond to the exigent circumstance:

On May 28, 2021, an 84-year-old woman with limited English proficiency was reported missing by her family. SFPD received information from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) that before she was reported missing, the woman was seen walking towards the MacArthur Tunnel leading to the Presidio and Golden Gate Bridge and a CHP officer offered to transport her to a location appropriate for foot traffic. CHP transported the woman to Fillmore Street and Marina Boulevard. An SFPD investigation determined that the woman may have been heading to the Golden Gate Bridge and was last seen on video around Crissy Field. This area has a high amount of brush, mosh, marsh and vegetation and has access to the Golden Gate strait. Due to the woman’s age, terrain of the last sighting area, length of time missing and potential of injury or exposure, SFPD believed an air search was warranted. SFPD determined that an

elderly woman wandering without access to shelter, food and water for more than eight days constituted exigent circumstances. On June 7, 2021, CHP, Marin County Sheriff's Department and SFPD collaborated on a search for the missing woman, where Marin County Sheriff's Department deployed a UAS. Unfortunately, the missing woman was not located during the search effort deployed on June 7, 2021.

The use of the Surveillance Technology ceased within seven days:

The Marin County Sheriff's Department ceased operation of its UAS in connection with the joint search operation on June 7, 2021, the day of the search.

Data from the Surveillance Technology was not retained:

The Marin County Sheriff's Small Unmanned Aerial System Team captured video which was not shared with SFPD. SFPD did not retain copies of video or still photos.

Data from the Surveillance Technology was not shared with a Third-Party:

The Marin County Sheriff's Deputies shared their observations from the UAS camera with SFPD over radio communications. SFPD did not retain, file, or share information from the surveillance technology with another party.

In compliance with Section 19B.7, we submit this report summarizing the use of Surveillance Technology within 60 days following the inception of the exigent circumstances described above.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM SCOTT

Chief of Police

cc: Police Commission
SF Committee on Information Technology