

DRONE AS FIRST RESPONDER

MANHATTAN BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 3, 2026



DRONE AS FIRST RESPONDER (DFR)



DRONES IN PUBLIC SAFETY

Conventional/Patrol-Led Use Cases



On-Scene
Deployment



Search and
Rescue



SWAT Tactical
Support



Investigation
& Evidence



Limitations

- Requires drone to be launched on scene
- Requires more officers to be trained drone pilots
- Takes officers away from their main job



WHY DFR MATTERS

Alhambra PD (est. 2019)



Arrives First On Scene

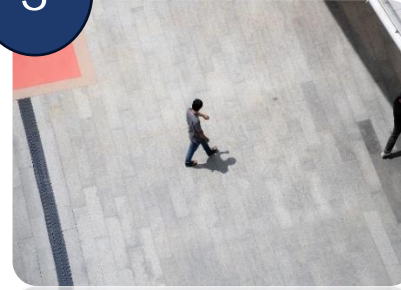
83 second
average
response time

80 % first on
scene rate



Reduce Response Times

86%
average
reduction
in response
time



Locate Subjects

Located 1,826
subjects prior to
the patrol
response



Clear Calls for Service

278 cleared
calls without
any patrol
response
required



NEIGHBORING AGENCY STATISTICS

El Segundo PD

Since summer of 2025:

- Over 400+ Flights
- 50 + calls for service cleared without patrol resources
- 1st on scene over 85% of the time



MBPD DEMO DAY STATISTICS

- Responded to 14 calls for service in 10-hour period
- Average Response Time: 2min 17secs
- First on Scene 93% of the time

* Demo did not include Live911 feature, which allows for a faster response



APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

- Real-time Situational Awareness
- Search and Rescue Operations
- Traffic Congestion Monitoring
- Fire Suppression Support
- Directed Patrols of Public Areas
 - Downtown
 - Pier
 - Beach
 - Commercial Districts
- De-escalation of incidents



VENDOR RECOMMENDATION

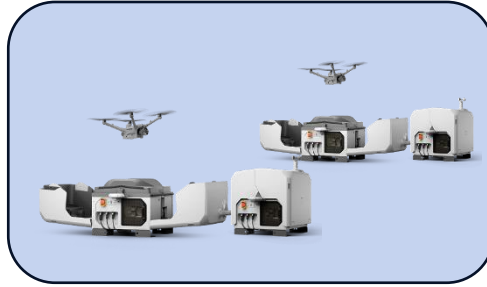


A TURNKEY PACKAGE/SEAMLESS DEPLOYMENT

- Drone, Dock, Camera
- Annual Battery Refresh
- Hardware Upgrades
- All Software
- FAA Waivers @ 400ft
- SOP & Policy Consulting
- DFR Remote Operations Training
- Full Suite of Integrations Included
- Community Engagement



SYSTEM COMPARISON / INSURANCE PLAN



Dock 3 w/Aerodome
3 docks with 1 drones per station



Flock ALPHA DFR
2 docks with 1 drone per station

Max Speed

47 mph

60 mph

Average Uptime

54 min

65 min

Coverage Area

3.5 mile radius

4 mile radius

Camera

Read a plate at ~700ft
High-def thermal

Read a plate at ~2,000ft
Max-def thermal



REAL TIME POLICING IN ACTION

Elk Grove FD Fire Response



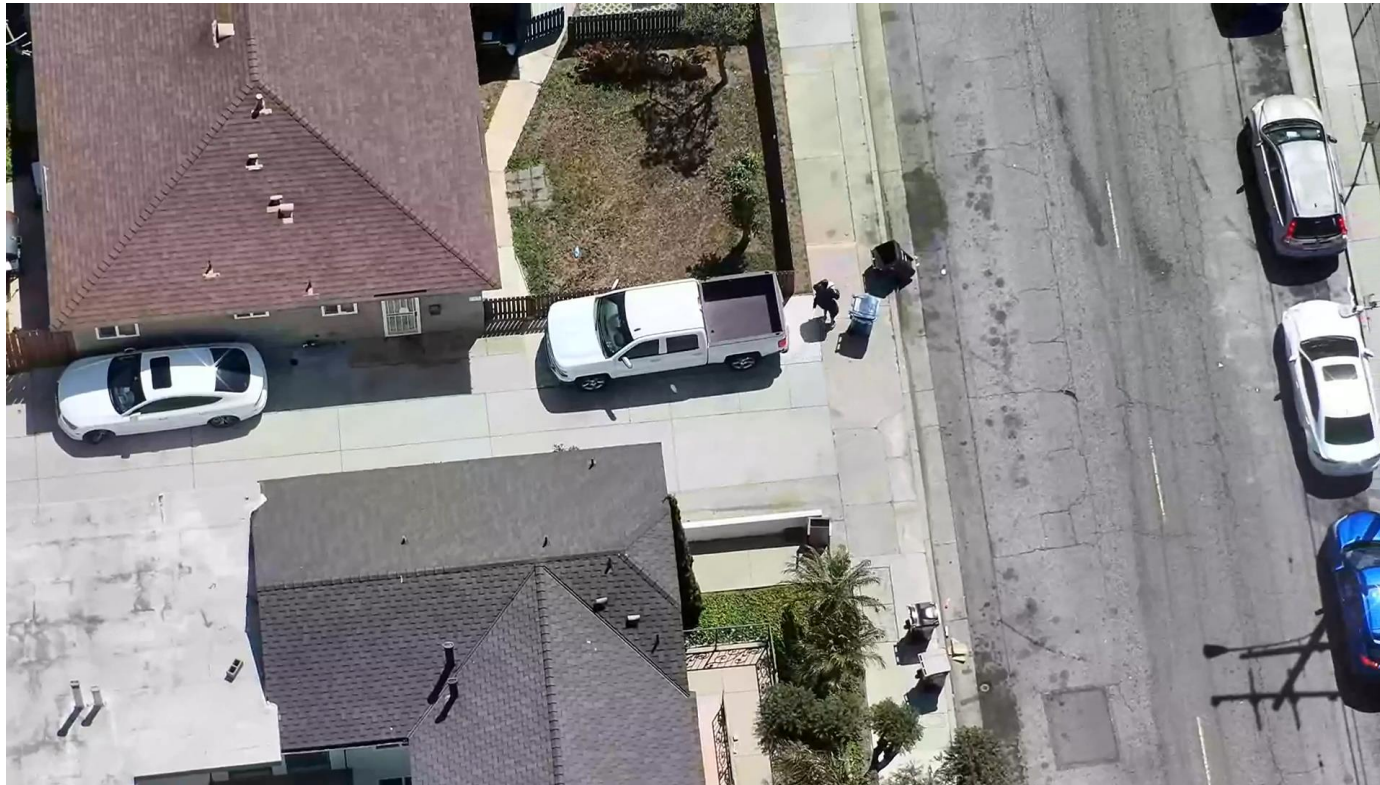
- ✓ Call 1: Structure Fire
- ✓ Arrived 2 minutes before first ground units
- ✓ Call 2: Vehicle Fire
- ✓ Arrived 4 minutes before first ground units



REAL TIME POLICING IN ACTION

Hawthorne PD

Domestic Violence w/ Weapon



- ✓ Man threatens to kill his girlfriend
- ✓ Flees on foot
- ✓ Drone locates him
- ✓ Drone witnesses suspect bury the gun
- ✓ Suspect tracked and arrested



FUNDING

State Law Enforcement Services (SLES) Fund

- FY 2025-2026 (\$150,000)
 - SLES funds budgeted
- FY 2026-2027 (\$150,000)
 - Unreserved SLES funds available



RISK MITIGATION & PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS

- All drone operations and pilots will adhere to FAA regulations and respect state privacy laws.
- All flights will be logged for transparency.
 - Agreement includes an automated public transparency portal for UAS flights
- Department Policy presently established for drone operations, ensuring responsible deployment.



IMPLEMENTATION

- Planning Department/Permitting
- Hardware Installation
- User Training
- Fully Operational in eight to twelve weeks



REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

- Waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.140 (waivers); and
- Adopt Resolution No. 26-0007 approving a two-year agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for DFR Program in an amount not-to-exceed \$300,000 .



