
Karl Jacobson
Chief of Police



Justin Elicker
Mayor

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DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE
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November 20, 2023

The Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear Alder President Walker-Myers,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Honorable Board approve the purchase of an upgrade to our drone program. We currently have eight drones that assist us in various enforcement activities including patrol-led deployments, traffic crash reconstruction, pre-tactical deployment reconnaissance, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and SWAT operations.

Drones are making incident response operations not only safe and effective but also remotely visible and manageable. They can reach a location within minutes after receiving an emergency request and aerially assess the situation before human responders arrive. They are more cost-effective than the conventional method of deploying a manned helicopter. They can cover a large area easily and can be equipped with thermal sensors which is especially useful in search and rescue operations. Furthermore, they can be equipped with various attachments so payloads can be controlled by a single officer from a safe distance without risking the officer's life, such as when engaging a perpetrator. As the Department works to fill vacancies, drones are an important tool in managing our personnel resources more efficiently.

We have an opportunity to exchange our current drones for brand new upgrades at a reduced price. The "Twin Pack" five-year package includes hardware, software, training, unlimited repairs and replacement, and upgrades every 24 months. We also request an additional controller to enable us to fly two drones at once. The total package is \$82,524.00, payable in installments over five years: \$20,504.00 in year one and \$15,505.00 in years two through five. This offer is good only through 2023.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Karl Jacobson
Chief of Police