

**2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Green Sheet**

**Ready for Notebook**

Tab	Action	Option	Version
65	1	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Impose proviso on Seattle Police Department prohibiting the purchase of unmanned aircraft systems.

**Councilmembers:** Clark; Harrell; Licata

**Staff Analyst:** Christa Valles

**Council Bill or Resolution:**

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

***Budget Action description:***

This green sheet will impose the following budget proviso:

“None of the money appropriated in the Seattle Police Department’s 2013 budget, and none of the appropriations carried forward from a previous year, may be spent to acquire unmanned aircraft (or aerial) systems, i.e. ‘drones’. This restriction also applies to any appropriations made by separate ordinance during 2013, unless such separate ordinance gives explicit authority to spend to acquire drones.”

**Background**

The Seattle Police Department recently purchased two drones using federal grant funds. The City Council learned of this purchase after the fact. SPD has assured Council, however, that it will not deploy the drones until Council reviews and approves the proposed operational policies that govern when and how the drones can be used.

SPD is currently in the process of doing public outreach and collecting feedback on its draft policy. Based on a prior discussion with SPD, SPD should be ready to report back to the Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology committee in late 2012 or early 2013 with a draft policy for Council review and approval.

The proviso above restricts SPD’s ability to purchase additional drones. Once Council has reviewed and approved SPD’s operational policies on the use of drones (which Council may choose to formalize via Ordinance), Council will want to evaluate the use and efficacy of the two recently acquired drones prior to authorizing additional drone purchases.