

Receive an Update on Approach to Preventing and Enforcing Sideshow Events at Alameda Point and Provide Direction to Return to Council with a Public Hearing to Consider Authorizing Future Purchase and Use of Drones for Sideshows and Other Critical Incidents

City Council Meeting
May 7, 2024

Background

- Alameda Point attracts **unsanctioned sideshows** and car events, **due to large open spaces**
- Several events have occurred over last six months drawing large crowds and **presenting public safety challenges** in two primary locations at Alameda Point:
 1. Southern area near West Hornet Avenue and Ferry Point
 2. Western area along West Tower Avenue, Monarch Street and West Midway Avenue



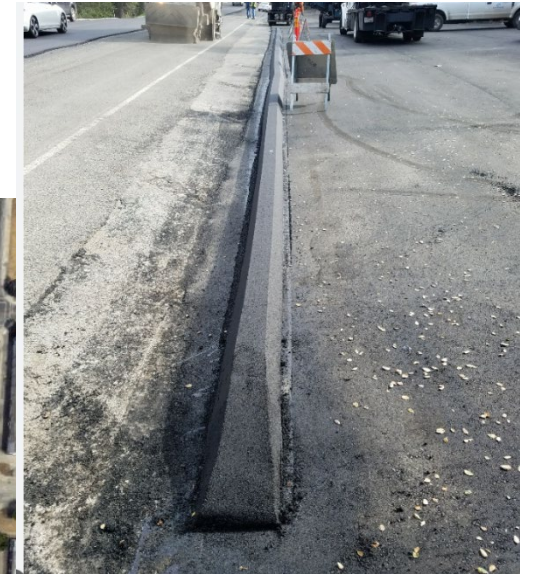
Public Safety Challenges and Impacts

- Reckless driving and unsafe driving on public streets
- Excessive noise and trash
- Property damage
- Negative impacts on adjacent businesses
- Traffic congestion
- Air quality and biological concerns
- Safety risk to first responders
- Service and fiscal impacts to City resources



City Approach to Sideshows: Prevention in Western Area

- Unpermitted car shows occurring on portions of West Tower Avenue, Monarch Street and West Midway Avenue
- Installing temporary asphalt curbs to narrow and define travel lanes, and reduce the size of street intersections
- Generally consistent with Master Infrastructure Plan and ultimate roadway construction



City Approach to Sideshows: Prevention in Southern Area

- Sideshows occur in off-street lot and streets near Ferry Point and West Hornet Avenue
- Installed lockable gates, bollards with chains, and new fencing



City Approach to Sideshows: APD Prevention Efforts

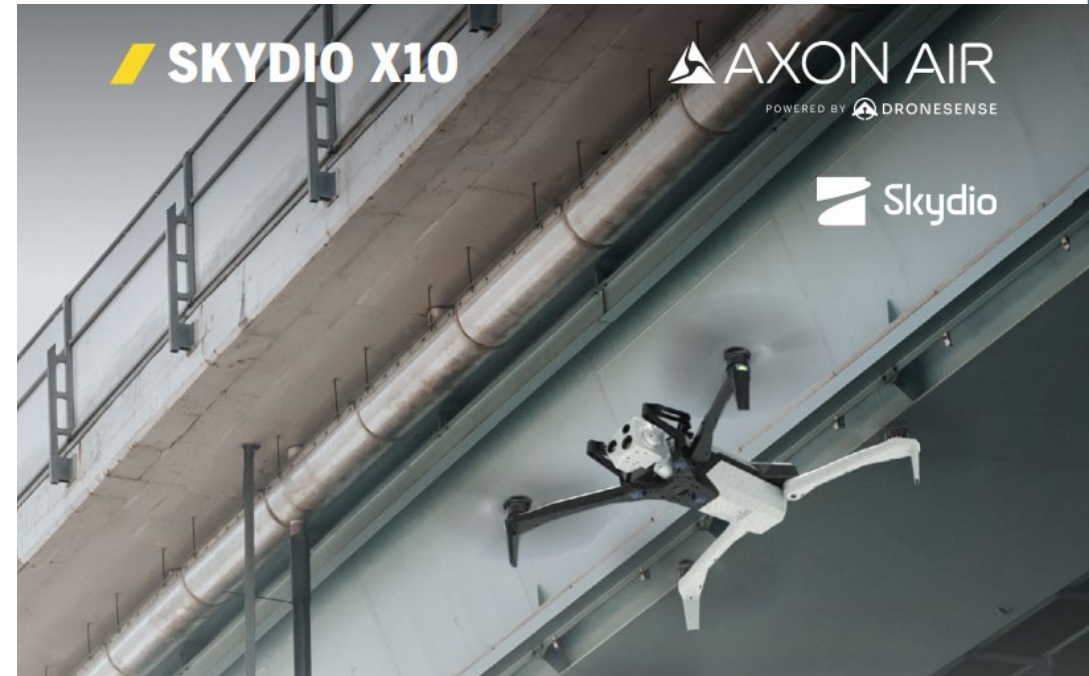
- Pre-event intelligence efforts by APD include:
 - Active social media searches and other confidential efforts
 - Outreach to promoters prior to the event to discourage sideshows
 - Coordination with on-site private security
 - Targeted patrols

City Approach to Sideshows: APD Intervention and Enforcement

- Assignment of sideshow detail on overtime and in some cases, redirection of patrol resources
- Request for mutual aid/assistance, if resources available
- Citation of reckless driving and other related crimes, as well as vehicle seizures
- Due to high risks associated with crowd management, APD maintains peripheral enforcement activities to avoid escalation and address serious crimes
- Post-event pursuit of costs from promoters, if contact information can be obtained
- Exploration of use of technology, such as drones, for stepped up post-event enforcement, resulting in strong deterrence

Request for Direction on Drones: Overview and Benefits

- Drones allow APD to collect evidence about sidershows and other critical incidents for strategic intervention and enforcement without jeopardizing safety of officers and escalating dangerous situations
- Request would be for two drones, along with adoption of an operations policy with strong privacy protections
- Easy and fast to deploy; less expensive and more efficient than other aerial technology; two-way voice and visual communication



Request for Direction on Drones: Draft Drone Operations Policy

- Allowed Use of Drones, such as:
 - Life preservation missions
 - All felony crimes
 - Unpermitted car shows
 - Riots
 - Mass Casualty events
 - Missing persons
 - Rescue events
 - Disaster response and recovery
 - Post-incident documentation
- Consultation with community, Secure Justice, ACLU best practices, and business community
- Prohibited Use
 - No weaponization
 - No facial recognition
 - No random surveillance
 - No targeting of a person based on actual or perceived characteristics
 - No harassment or intimidation
 - No personal business
- Authorized Personnel – only authorized operators with training
- Federal Regulations – in accordance with FAA/USFWS
- Approval and Oversight – Supervisor must approve deployment

Request for Direction on Drones: Proposed Next Steps

- Drones fall under AB481 and Government Code Section 7070 definitions of military equipment
- Consistent with AB481, draft Drone Policy posted on April 15th for 30-day comment period and community meeting held on April 30th
- If directed by Council this evening, staff will return on May 21st with the First Reading of an Ordinance Amendment approving the use of drones, a draft Drone Policy, and the required Annual Report for use of all military equipment consistent with AB481

Recommendation

1. Receive an update on approach to preventing and enforcing sideshow events at Alameda Point; and
2. Provide direction to return to Council with a Public Hearing to consider authorizing future purchase and use of drones for sideshows and other critical incidents.