

# 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

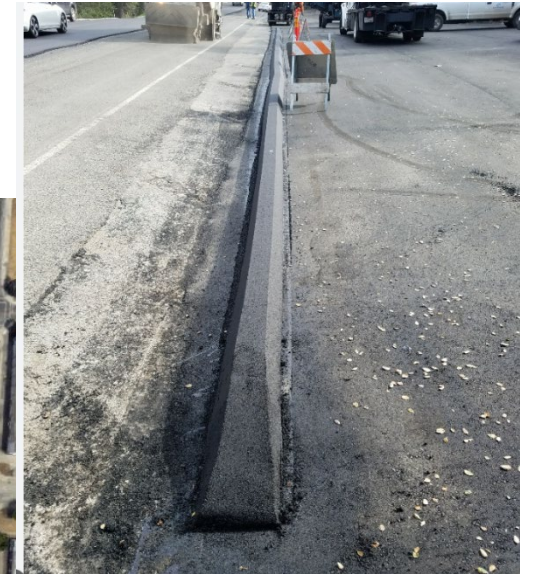
- Reckless driving and unsafe driving on public streets
- Excessive noise and trash
- Property damage
- Negative impacts on adjacent businesses
- Traffic congestion
- Air quality and biological concerns
- Safety risk to first responders
- Service and fiscal impacts to City resources





# 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

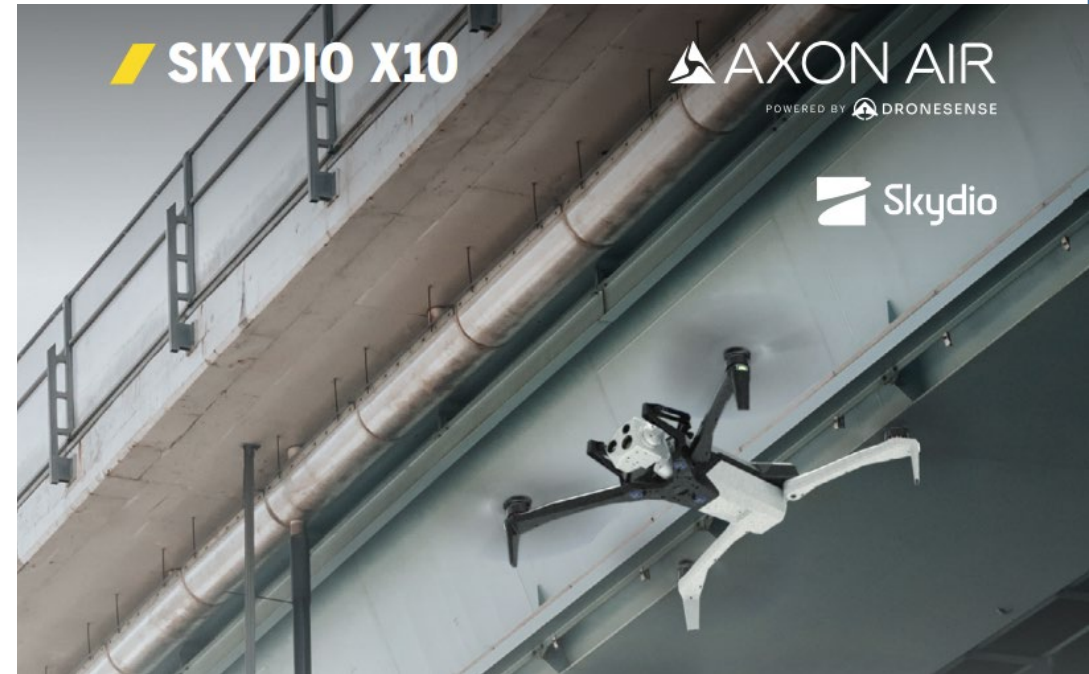
# City Approach to Sideshows: APD Intervention and Enforcement

- 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 15<sup>th</sup> for 30-day comment period and community meeting held on April 30<sup>th</sup>
- If directed by Council this evening, staff will return on May 21<sup>st</sup> 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.