

Academy of Model Aeronautics
Andrew Argenio
District I Vice President
3 Sheila Lane
Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917



November 18, 2016 - Newton, Massachusetts

Honorable Councilors

Re: Item # 197-15(2) Ordinance Proposal
Sec. 20-64 Pilotless Aircraft Operation

Dear Councilor,

My name is Andrew Argenio and I serve as an Academy of Model Aeronautics executive board member and district vice president representing AMA members and clubs in New England.

Howard Samuels, an AMA member and resident of Newton, MA., and I have been in contact with the Public Safety & Transportation Committee with respect to the proposed Pilotless Aircraft Operation ordinance since it was introduced. We have provided opposition comments to specific items and suggestions for consideration in written letters to the committee council members.

Attached to this document is the committee's November 9, 2016 final proposed ordinance. We have included our comments and some suggestions in blue text below each item for further consideration before the council votes on the proposal.

It is extremely important that local lawmakers and law enforcement are aware that the FAA provides multiple options for recreational remote pilots to operate their aircraft in the National Air Space (NAS).

AMA's 199,000 remote pilots who fly at 2,600 club flying sites in the USA have an exemplary safety record dating back 80 years and thus, Congress in 2012's Federal Modernization & Reform Act (FMRA) passed Public-Law 112-95 Sec. (c) 336. This law exempted AMA's community based organization (CBO) remote pilots from further FAA regulations, allowing AMA pilots to continue operating their model aircraft in accordance with AMA's extensive risk based safety programming.

AMA is seeking exemptions for AMA remote pilots from some of the requirements and limitations in Newton's proposed pilotless aircraft ordinance. This would be under conditions that flight operations are conducted in accordance with AMA's safety regulations, at permitted flying site locations, and with FAA authorization.

We would greatly appreciate council's consideration of our comments, suggestions and exemption requests. If council requires further explanation, we are available at council's convenience.

Sincerely yours,

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