

DRONE ORDINANCE
CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN
Ord. No. 535 Eff. July 26, 2016

An ordinance regulating the use of small unmanned aircraft system (drones) in the City of Mackinac Island.

THE CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. Purpose.

The use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) is a relatively modern activity and is increasing within the City of Mackinac Island. Recreational operators are generally not required to have training in the use of drones. Drones are subject to various mechanical malfunctions.

The City of Mackinac Island has a tourist based economy that is heavily reliant on its historic character, its prohibition of motor vehicles and its use of horse-drawn vehicles. The City of Mackinac Island also experiences a large increase in human activity in the tourist season, causing significant congestion on its streets, sidewalks and public grounds. The coordination and management of pedestrian, bicycle and horse traffic is important to the health, safety and welfare of the public, most notably the prevention of startling horses.

The City of Mackinac Island believes the use of drones pose an unreasonable threat to the safety of the residents and visitors to the city, said threats including, but not limited to, the startling horses as a result of the drones, or parts thereof, falling from the sky, or being operated in close proximity to the horses. The use of drones also negatively impacts the city's effort to maintain its historic character and ambiance.

Therefore, the purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the use of drones to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community, its residents and visitors.

Section 2. Permit Required.

No person shall operate, or use, a drone in the air space above the City of Mackinac Island, which includes the air space above Lake Huron a distance of one mile from the shoreline of Mackinac Island, without having first obtained a permit to do so from the city council. An application for such permit can be obtained from the city clerk's office and must be presented to the city council for its review prior to any issuance. The review of the city council shall be based on the following criteria:

A. Location of the use as it relates to matters that include, but are not limited to potential disturbing of horses or impact on the general historic character and ambience of Mackinac Island.

B. Time of the use as it relates to matters that include, but are not limited to potential disturbing of horses or impact on the general historic character and ambience of Mackinac Island.

C. Description of the drone, including its dimensions, weight, engine type and decibel level that it generates.

D. The name, address, any licensing or certification, and any other relevant information pertaining to the operator of the drone.

E. The purpose of the proposed use, including whether it is recreational or commercial.

F. Compliance with all laws, rules, and policies of any federal, state or local governmental entity, including but not limited to the Federal Aviation Administration and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

The city council review of the application and its decision will be based on the above stated criteria as they relate to the purpose of this ordinance.

Section 3. Revocability.

Any permit issued pursuant to this ordinance is temporary and revocable. If the drone is being used or operated in an unsafe manner or in a manner inconsistent with the provisions contained in the permit, the Chief of Police is authorized to immediately revoke the permit.

Section 4. Violation.

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed responsible of a civil infraction and shall be assessed a fine consistent with the city schedule of fines for civil infractions.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after passage.


Margaret M. Doud, Mayor


Danielle M. Wightman, Clerk

Adopted: 7/6/2016

Effective: 7/26/2016