



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

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the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



Media Relations Information for 03/11/2021

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LPPD Launches Drone Program

Left to Right: Sergeant Boznango and Officer Heiden are shown with the new specially-equipped Tahoe, which has storage and charging capabilities, giving the pilots a mobile drone ready for patrol.

In October 2017, the La Porte Police Department (LPPD) initiated a drone program to enhance the capabilities of the Department to serve the community. The program is led by Sergeant Brion Boznango, as he and Officer Andrew Heiden are licensed under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to fly drones. These officers train on a monthly basis to maintain certification and ensure safe operations.

The use of the drones is restricted by Department policy and derived in part from Texas Government Code 423.002 and FAA regulations, which strictly protect the privacy of citizens. LPPD utilizes their drones as another tool to assist in a variety of operations. Departmental uses include enhancing officer safety during high risk operations, surveying damage from natural and man-made disasters and fatal crash investigations, and, most importantly, the drones may be used to search for missing persons. Rapid deployment and the ability to cover a large area conserves precious time and manpower, potentially saving lives.

In October 2020, the Department acquired one drone, a Mavic 2 Enterprise Series with Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) capabilities. The Mavic 2 is primarily used outdoors for search and rescue, barricaded suspects, crime scene photography, crash reconstruction, and post-disaster assessment. A smaller drone, the Mavic Mini, is used for indoor operations such as tactical missions, search and rescue, and crime scene photography. Additionally, two Mavic Pro drones acquired in 2017 are being used for training.

For more questions regarding any LPPD initiatives, please contact the Department at 281-471-2141 or visit the Department's website at LaPorteTX.gov/Police.