

# Press



# Release

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## County Legislature Passes Drone Regulation Law

### Law Introduced by Vice Chairman Hood Includes Public Input

New City, NY (June 17, 2015)– The Rockland County Legislature passed a local law that will regulate the use of drones within the county. The law, introduced by Vice Chairman Jay Hood, Jr., passed with bi-partisan support at last evening's meeting and will take effect later this year.

Vice Chairman Hood also serves as chairman of the Legislature's Public Safety Committee and introduced the law earlier this year after hearing the concerns of Sheriff Lou Falco about possible illicit uses at the jail complex and other county property. The Legislature held a hearing in April to obtain public input that was subsequently incorporated into the law.

The law will limit the operation of a drone to a user's own private property, to private or public property with permission of the property owner and will strictly prohibit use in the vicinity of the Rockland County Jail and Sheriff's Complex, government buildings and installations, schools, and houses of worship. The law will not prohibit the use of drones by law enforcement, fire or emergency service agencies to aid in crime, traffic and fire scene investigations in accordance with federal and state statutes that already regulate the use of drones. Use by public utility companies to survey or inspect their facilities and land is also exempted by the law. The law may be enforced by any local law enforcement agency in the county.

Vice Chairman Hood said, " As the use of these devices becomes more popular it is important that parameters are set. I thank my colleagues for their support and thank the members of the public who contributed input to assist us in developing a fair law that protects the right to privacy, public safety and the rights of the responsible user."

Rockland County Sheriff Louis Falco said, "The unrestricted use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), or drones, has become an increasing challenge for law enforcement. This law will be particularly helpful to the security of our county correctional facility and I applaud Legislator Hood for working to successfully enact this local law. By making it unlawful to operate a drone in the area of the correctional facility, it will help to protect our officers, the facility and the inmates."

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