



MEMORANDUM

TO: Internal Operations Committee

FROM: Art Thompson, Chief Information Officer

DATE: July 21st, 2025

RE: Contract 6007162

Contract 6007162 is expected to be presented to the Internal Operations Committee Wednesday July, 22. I would like to provide some details and further information on this contract.

This contract is the result of an RFP that attracted 2 bidders, OCP invited 604 companies for this bid. The winner of the bid process is Airspace Link, Inc. 2050 15th Street, Detroit, MI 48216. Airspace Link, Inc. is CRIO certificated as a Detroit Based Business (DBB), Detroit Headquartered Business (DHB) and Detroit Small Business (DSB).

The city has seen a number of departments using drones, this contract provides software that will allow the City to properly manage the drones in accordance with FAA requirements and training. FAA requires all drones used by businesses use an application to check intended flight path for other drones as well as restricted areas both temporary (like a concert) and permanent (airport...). The software will ensure drone flights are within FAA requirements. Additionally, it will file and manage FAA clearances to fly beyond line of visible sight (BV-lose) and others. The largest set of drones in the city currently is Detroit Fire Department with 16 drones and 22 FAA certified pilots

This contract will primary be used to ensure we are flying our drones in accordance with requirements. The contract also includes access to data from sensors to analyze public drones in restricted airspace within the city. The sensor analysis will be used to determine the configuration and benefit to the city of any city sensor purchases. Detroit Police Department has requested and received sensor information from Airspace Link to initiate FAA complaints/investigations when drones have violated airspace restrictions, for example the opening of Michigan Central and events at Comerica Park.

Important note: This contract provides software, sensors, and training to manage the airspace within the City of Detroit. It will be used to ensure City drone use is compliant with FAA and other regulations as well



as provide visibility into use of private drones in restricted airspace. This contract does not provide any drones or cameras. Additionally, it does not manage, process, or receive any photographs/videos captured by drones.

CC: Internal Operations Committee
Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway
Council Member Latisha Johnson
Council Member Mary Waters
Eric Cooper, OCP
Justin Earley, OCP
Amber Easton, DoIT – SLM
Gail Fulton, Mayor’s Office
Mike Homant, DoIT
Raquel Newell, Mayor’s Office
Sandra Yu Stahl, Chief Procurement Officer
Malik Washington, Mayor’s Liaison
David Whitaker, Director Legislative Policy Division