



**Boston City Council**  
**ED FLYNN**  
Councilor - District 2

July 25, 2025

Michael Cox  
Commissioner, Boston Police Department  
1 Schroeder Plaza  
Boston, MA 02120

Paul F. Burke  
Commissioner, Boston Fire Department  
115 Southamptton Street  
Boston, MA 02118

**RE: Drone safety**

Dear Commissioner Cox and Commissioner Burke,

I'm writing to you today to highlight the issue of drone safety in the City of Boston. I would like to respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss the impact of drones in our communities.

Over the last two decades, rapid advancements in technology have enabled the widespread use of drones, including in the military, search and rescue operations, law enforcement, recreation, deliveries, etc. As the usage of drones has become more common, public safety and privacy concerns have risen.

In October 2024, a drone controlled by a CNN employee with valid FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) credentials crashed into a light pole and fell into the crowd at Boston City Hall Plaza during a Celtics Watch Party, injuring two people. In December 2024, two men were arrested and charged for flying drones in "hazardous air space" close to Logan Airport - a prohibited airspace for drones.

In Massachusetts, drones are allowed for commercial and recreational use, subject to the FAA regulations. However, as it stands, local law enforcement is unable to enforce FAA regulations. There is currently only one state law - the Code of Massachusetts Regulations Title 302 (302 CMR 12.04) - concerning the operation of drones, which prohibits the use or operation of any air propelled power craft or hovercraft on or over any land or waterways of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

In the City of Boston, under the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance, there are rules governing how the Boston Police Department (BPD) can use UAS technologies for surveillance. However, the City does not have any regulations or guidance on the individual use of drones/UAS technologies.

Drones can pose a significant threat to airplanes and public safety, especially in busy urban settings. They can also create noise disturbances, cause physical harm to residents, and violate privacy. There are over a million drones registered with the FAA across the country, however, there are also many illegal and unregistered drones.



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It is critical that stronger regulations are put in place to protect residents from this emerging technology. In May, I filed a hearing on this issue, and in the meantime, I would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the impact of drones in our communities. I hope we can work closely on this matter to develop sensible guidelines and policies.

I look forward to hearing from your office on this matter. Please feel free to contact me at [Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov](mailto:Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov), or at 617-635-3203.

Sincerely,

Ed Flynn  
Boston City Councilor, District 2