

## INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

January 20, 2026

1.14

**TO:** The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

**FROM:** Chief of Police

**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL OF NON-MONETARY DONATION

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners APPROVE the Department's Report and TRANSMIT to the Mayor and City Council for ACCEPTANCE of the following non-monetary donation valued \$2,100,000.00 for Office of Operations.

<b><u>DONOR:</u></b>	<b><u>PURPOSE:</u></b>	<b><u>VALUE:</u></b>
Los Angeles Police Foundation Ms. Dana Katz, Executive Director 633 West 5 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 960 Los Angeles, California 90071 (213) 489-4636	Drone as First Responder (DFR) Program (#2026-001)	\$2,100,000.00

### DISCUSSION

This donation will provide funding to Office of Operations to purchase drones, drone docking stations, and the installation of power and internet at selected Department facilities to enable drone operations. The Drone as First Responder program (DFR) deploys drones with high-definition and thermal imaging to reach emergency scenes before ground units. Live video gives officers real-time awareness to assess threats, locate suspects, identify hazards, and at times resolve calls without direct contact. Approval of this donation will improve response times and provide better situational awareness. DFR enhances officer safety, enables more informed decision making, supports de-escalation efforts, and advances the Department's use of modern technology. Below is a list of items to be donated, along with their estimated value.

Items	Value
Drones, drone docking stations	\$ 3,800,000.00
Installation cost at Department Facilities	100,000.00
Retail Theft Grant	<b>-1,800,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,100,000.00</b>

The Los Angeles Police Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides critical resources and vital support to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). From

essential equipment and state-of-the-art technology to specialized training and innovative programs that would otherwise be unfunded, the Foundation provides funding that directly improves public safety, impacts officer readiness, and enhances the quality of life of all members of the community. As the largest source of private support for the LAPD, the Foundation is passionately dedicated to ensuring that Los Angeles remains America's safest major city. Since being established in 1998, the Foundation has invested tens of millions of dollars in hundreds of LAPD initiatives that promote excellence, expand capabilities, strengthen neighborhoods and create opportunities for at-risk youth. These actions are grounded in the beliefs that a safe city is a strong city and that together we can make a difference.

The donation has been submitted in accordance with Section 5.467 et seq. of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, which provides for the receipt and acceptance of donations to the Department.

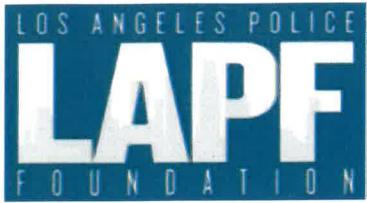
If you have any questions, please contact Commander Bryan Lium, Office of Operations at (213) 486-0110.

Respectfully,



JIM McDONNELL  
Chief of Police

Attachments



# APPROVED DONATION

633 W. 5th Street, Suite 960, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone (213) 489-4636 FAX (213) 489-4697

email: jacqui@supportlapd.org

1/16/2026

**LAPF Grant #** 2026-001

**Grant Application Received:** January 5, 2026

**Grant received from:** Office of Operations

**Contact:** Commander Bryan Lium

**Phone:** (213) 486-0110

**Grant Name:** Drone as First Responder (DFR) Program

**Grant Amount:** \$2,100,000.00

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacqui".

December 8, 2025

1.11

**TO:** Chief of Police**FROM:** Director, Office of Operations**SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES POLICE FOUNDATION DONATION REQUEST  
- GENERAL FUND****NAME OF REQUEST: DRONE AS FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM**

The Office of Operations requests approval for a non-restricted donation from the Los Angeles Police Foundation valued at \$21,00,000.00. This donation will support the purchase of drones, drone docking stations, and the installation of power and internet at selected Department facilities to enable drone operations.

Since June 2025, the Office of Operations has piloted the Drone as First Responder (DFR) program, evaluating its feasibility while testing multiple vendors, equipment platforms, personnel, and deployment sites. The pilot has been highly successful, and the Office of Operations has identified the optimal vendor, Skydio Inc., and locations for drone docks to deliver DFR coverage across as much of the current airspace restrictions will allow within the Los Angeles Police Department's 21 geographic areas.

The DFR program deploys drones with high-definition and thermal imaging to reach emergency scenes before ground units. Live video gives officers real-time awareness to assess threats, locate suspects, identify hazards, and at times resolve calls without direct contact.

By improving response times and providing better situational awareness, DFR enhances officer safety, enables more informed decision making, supports de-escalation efforts, and advances the Department's use of modern technology.

The following are the proposed locations for installation of drone docking stations:

Department Facilities	Docks	Public/Private Facility	Docks
PHF	3	Palisades Village	1
Northeast	2	The Grove LA	2
Hollywood	2	Vineyards Porter Ranch	2
Olympic	2	Ave of the Stars	2
Wilshire	2		
West Los Angeles	2		
Topanga	2		
Devonshire	2		

With a 2-3 mile operating radius from the above rooftop locations, LAPD drones will support select areas within the following geographic bureaus:

Central Bureau	West Bureau	South Bureau	Valley Bureau
Central	West LA	Southwest	Devonshire
Hollenbeck	Wilshire		Topanga
Newton	Hollywood		
Rampart	Olympic		

The Office of Operations is also purchasing two (2) stand-alone drones for Mobile DFR operations, a platform that provides the ability to conduct drone operations anywhere in the City, rather than being limited to fixed rooftop locations. Mobile DFR is a critical tool for addressing emerging crime trends, special problems and events.

As the Department works with the FAA to secure waivers for currently restricted airspace, DFR operations will expand accordingly, with the ultimate goal of achieving city-wide coverage across all 21 geographic areas.

The donation in addition to \$1.8 million from the "Retail Theft Grant," will fund toward a three-year contract that includes equipment, warranty coverage and service. Prior to the expiration of the three-year contract, the Department intends to seek future funding through the City budget.

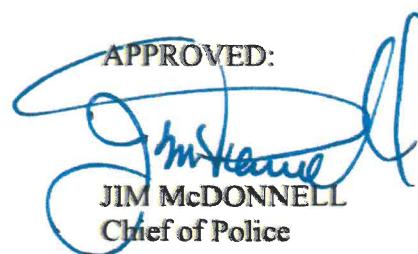
Category / Items	Amount
Drones, drone docking stations	\$3,800,000.00
Installation cost at Department Facilities	\$100,000.00
Retail Theft Grant	<b>-\$1,800,000.00</b>
<b>Total Balance:</b>	<b>\$2,100,000.00</b>

Although there has been expressed interest from Council Districts in contributing to the program's advancement, no dedicated funding has been committed to date.

The Information Technology Bureau (ITB) has been part of the DFR Working Group since its inception and has played a critical role in integrating the technology systems necessary to support compatibility with Skydio and the overall DFR program. All Department technical support will be provided by ITB, while product repairs, updates, and technical support specific to the equipment will be handled directly by Skydio.

If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED] Office of Operations, at (213) 486-0108.

  
EMADA E. TINGRIDES, Assistant Chief  
Director, Office of Operations

APPROVED:  
  
JIM McDONNELL  
Chief of Police