

SCOTT WAGUESPACK

32ND WARD ALDERMAN * WARD32.ORG

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City Council passes drone ordinance



Drone sales are skyrocketing this year, and on top of the 700,000 already shipped to the US this year (CEA data), the Federal Aviation Administration expects over 1,000,000 more drones to be sold this holiday season. Reports of drones invading airspace at local and national airports have been on the increase and even commercial drone users have been heavily fined by the FAA for flying into airport airspace. The FAA does grant exemptions to commercial flyers, including film producers who must be licensed

pilots and most users follow basic rules.

The FAA has been working on regulations but does not expect to have them ready until next year, and the regulations do not cover municipalities need for enforcement. Over the past couple years, I worked with hobbyists and commercial users to craft an ordinance with Ald. Burke that would allow the continued expansion of the multi-billion dollar industry, allow users to continue to enjoy the use of drones, but rein in rogue pilots who do not follow common sense rules as set in the new Chicago ordinance. As the federal regulations are put in place, and as technology of drones advance, we will revisit the ordinance.

The Chicago drone ordinance is the first of its kind and came out well because of the collaboration between hobbyist drone users, public utilities, commercial users, and our office. If you decide to buy a drone this holiday season, **Know Before You Fly**, and check out the **new Chicago drone ordinance** before lifting off.