

## AIRCRAFT / DRONE POLICY

### I. PURPOSE

This document provides Definitions and Policy regulating the use of Aircraft/Drones on or over Rockdale County Government Property.

### II. DEFINITIONS

“*Aircraft*” means any equipment or device that is used or intended to be used for human flight or is capable of flight, including but not limited to powerless flight.

“*Drones*” means any unmanned aircraft system that is capable of sustained flight or suspension in the atmosphere including unmanned aircraft commonly referred to as model airplanes, small, unmanned aircraft, or aerial systems, aerial hover craft, and any other remotely piloted or unmanned aircraft of any kind.

### III. STATEMENT

No unmanned aircraft systems, drones, unmanned aircraft, remote- controlled aerial vehicles, or unmanned aerial vehicles shall be launched or intentionally landed within the boundaries of Rockdale County Government properties.

- A. No person shall operate or fly, cause to be flown, or permit/authorize the operation or flying of Aircraft over Rockdale County Government Property except in strict accordance with applicable laws governing such flight including rules promulgated by the Federal Aviation Administration (see: section IV).
- B. No person shall operate, launch, take off, land, cause to launch or authorize the operation. Take off, launching, or landing of any Aircraft of any kind from or on any Rockdale County Government properties is not permitted, except when necessitated by an unavoidable emergency.
- C. No person shall parachute or descend from an Aircraft into or onto Rockdale County Government properties or cause, permit/authorize another person to parachute or descend from an Aircraft onto Rockdale County Properties, except when necessitated by an unavoidable emergency.
- D. No person shall operate, launch, take off, land, cause to launch, or authorize the operation or flying of Drones. Take off, launching, or landing of any Drones of any kind from or on Rockdale County Government properties:
  1. In violation of the Federal Aviation Administration rules, regulations, and safety guidelines governing such flight.
  2. Within fifty (50) horizontal feet of any property line, person, building, playground, tennis court, basketball court, parking lot, aquatic park, golf course, or skate park.
  3. Directly over any person, group of people, or occupied space.

4. For conducting surveillance (which is defined as the gathering of images, sounds, data, or other information in a matter that intrudes upon the solitude, privacy, or seclusion of person or his/her private affairs or concerns), unless expressly permitted by law.
5. That is equipped with a firearm or other weapon or with the intent to use the Drone or anything attached to the Drone to cause harm to persons or property.
6. Whenever weather conditions would impair the operator's ability to do so safely.
7. In a reckless or careless manner.

~~E.~~ Drone operation is prohibited on Rockdale County Government Properties; however, occasionally waivers are approved for professional commercial projects which may generate revenue or in other ways help promote the sites. In these cases, prior written approval is required from the Director of Parks and Recreation. A commercial film/photography request application detailing the project description, specific site location requested, and exact dates and times of drone use needs to be submitted along with the FAA drone registration, name of the pilot, and proof of FAA small UAS Certification or Part 107. Blanket requests will not be approved, and drone use is not allowed in overpopulated areas that may put park guests or constituents at risk.

**IV.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules, regulations, and safety guidelines for operating drone include but are not limited to:

**V.**

A. Before you fly you must:

1. Register your UAS (Drone) if it weighs more than 0.55 pounds.
2. Label your UAS (Drone) with your registration number.
3. Read and understand all safety guidelines.

B. You must be:

1. 13 years of age or older (if the owner is less than 13 years of age, a person 13 years of age or older must register the small, unmanned aircraft).
2. A U.S. Citizen or legal permanent resident.

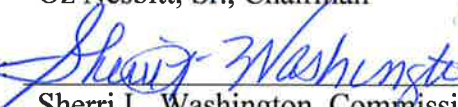
C. FAA safety guidelines:


1. Fly at or below 400 feet
2. Keep your UAS (Drone) within sight.
3. Never fly near other aircraft, especially near airports
4. Never fly over groups of people
5. Never fly over stadiums or sports events
6. Never fly near emergency response efforts such as fires
7. Never fly under the influence
8. Be aware of airspace requirements.
9. Use is prohibited within 5 miles of airports without prior notification to airport and air traffic control.
10. Operators must ALWAYS yield right of way to manned aircraft.
11. Operators must follow community-based guidelines.

Approved this 27 day of February, 2023. 2024.

Rockdale County, Georgia  
Board of Commissioners

By:   
Oz Nesbitt, Sr., Chairman

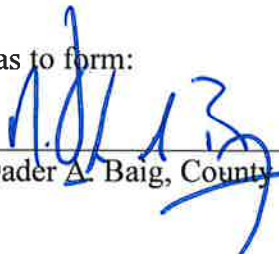
By:   
Sherri L. Washington, Commissioner Post I

By:   
Dr. Doreen L. Williams, Commissioner Post II

Attest:

By:   
Jennifer Rutledge, County Clerk

Approved as to form:

By:   
M. Qader A. Baig, County Attorney