

5. EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM – UAS Training

In accepting this grant, the council and PPD should make it clear that funds will be used to train drone operators in accordance with current PPD policy. In other words, this grant will be specifically used for training SWAT team drone use within SWAT operations.

These funds should not be used for future potential – but not currently authorized – DFR training as was the stated purpose in the grant application.

Yadi

Pasadena City Council Meeting

October 27, 2026

5. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant – UAS Training

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Regarding item 1 (acceptance of a grant to be used to receive training and earn certification for Unmanned Aircraft Systems operators), I encourage City Council to add the restriction that the funds are only to be used to support training for drone operations that are currently approved by City Council. As you likely recall, City Council has only approved drone use by SWAT. As noted in AB481 discussions and the report for the agenda item (copied below), the Police Department would like to expand the scope and use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, but that expansion has not been approved by Council. Moreover, Council declined to greenlight expanded use of drones at a recent meeting. Limiting the use of grant funds to drone training to current uses (SWAT only) would be in line with the position taken by Council. It would be premature for funds to be used for training that goes beyond the scope of existing approved drone use.

Humaira Afzal
Pasadena resident

10/27/2026
Item 5