



PROCLAMATION

RECOGNITION OF THE AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT ROBOTICS EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT TEAM

***WHEREAS**, the Austin Fire Department (AFD) Robotics Emergency Deployment (RED) Team is a robotics program that aims to improve emergency response capabilities and firefighter safety; and*

***WHEREAS**, the RED Team consists of two public safety drone pilots who arrived in San Diego from Austin, Texas on Sunday, September 8, 2024; and*

***WHEREAS**, the RED Team has assisted San Diego State University researchers and scientists from the University of California San Diego, University of California Riverside, and University of Texas at Austin to help collect scientific data in difficult-to-reach areas keeping researchers safe; and*

***WHEREAS**, the RED Team have 10 years of experience using drones in the field to help with deploying scientific instruments to aid in environmental monitoring; and*

***WHEREAS**, the RED Team is considered the “Top Gun” of hazardous material specialists making them uniquely suited for this type of research being conducted in sensitive environmentally-impacted areas of operation; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Austin Fire Department is the first robotics program of its kind in a fire department in the United States is the first major metropolitan department in the country to receive authorization to operate Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) in the national airspace; and*

***WHEREAS**, the RED Team Certificate of Authorization (COA) is granted by the Federal Aviation Administration and is required of any public safety organization operating UAS as part of an emergency response; and*

***WHEREAS**, RED Team pilot Oscar Granados is also a rescue group survivor with the counter assault strike team, has 18 years of service as a fire specialist, and was recognized as Firefighter of the Year by the Austin Fire Department for his bravery in saving the life of a fellow firefighter; and*

***WHEREAS**, RED Team pilot Jason Burnside is a firefighter and the program manager for the RED Team, has over 7 years of experience in public safety drone piloting, is a licensed private pilot, and has served 12 years with the Austin Fire Department.*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** that I Paloma Aguirre, Mayor of the City of Imperial Beach, together with the City Council, express our deepest gratitude to the Austin Fire Department RED Team for taking time out of their services in Austin, Texas and away from their families to help the City of Imperial Beach.*

Dated: September 18, 2024

Paloma Aguirre, Mayor