



**COMMISSION FILE NO:** 25-039-3 **DATE INTRODUCED:** March 10, 2025

**INTRODUCED BY:** Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

**REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO:** Policy, Finance, and Personnel Committee

**RELATING TO:** Adoption of Amendment to MMSD Rules, Chapter 14, Protection of District Facilities, to Add Section 14.11, Drone Use

**SUMMARY:**

The Commission is requested to adopt the proposed amendment to MMSD Rules, Chapter 14, Protection of District Facilities. The proposed amendment adds Section 14.11, Drone Use, regulating the operation of drones in and around specified District Facilities.

In December 2024 the Commission authorized a public hearing for the proposed amendment to Chapter 14. A public hearing occurred on February 6, 2025. The period for written comments ended February 7, 2025. The District received no comments.

**ATTACHMENTS:** BACKGROUND  KEY ISSUES  RESOLUTION

FISCAL NOTE  S/W/MBE  OTHER  Redlined/Clean Proposed Amendment Revisions

*PFP\_MMSD\_Rules\_Ch\_14\_Adopt\_Drone\_Use\_Amendment\_legislative\_file.docx  
02-27-25*

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMISSION ACTION:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Adoption of Amendment to MMSD Rules, Chapter 14, Protection of District Facilities, to Add Section 14.11, Drone Use**

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The District's rules do not specifically prohibit the use of drones on or around District assets. Other local government entities have taken steps to prohibit recreational and commercial drone use over certain sensitive assets (e.g., Milwaukee Public Schools Administrative Policy 5.04 Use of Drones on School Property; City of Greenfield Ordinance 10.35 - Unmanned aerial vehicles); the District now seeks to do the same.

Drone use has surged in recent years, and District staff is examining various applications for the use of drones. Nevertheless, such expanded use poses challenges, as recently a private drone crashed into District property at the Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility. Homeland Security was alerted, and it was recommended this change take place.

District Risk Management staff has consulted with Homeland Security, and Legal Services staff conducted a review of existing research surrounding the regulation of drone operation. As a result, the text of the proposed amendment to Chapter 14 strikes an appropriate balance between the interests of commercial and hobbyist drone use and protecting the District's most sensitive assets from risk. It prohibits drone operation at a horizontal distance of 500 feet or a vertical distance of 300 feet from any District-owned or operated water reclamation facility and wastewater management facility. This captures the District's water reclamation facilities at Jones Island and South Shore, as well as the headquarters and lab buildings, but would not otherwise prohibit drone use over District greenspace property and various watercourses.

## RESOLUTION

Adoption of Amendment to MMSD Rules, Chapter 14, Protection of District Facilities,  
to Add Section 14.11, Drone Use

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**RESOLVED**, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that MMSD Rules, Chapter 14, Protection of District Facilities, is adopted as shown in the attachment, and is effective upon publication, as required by Wis. Stat. Sec. 200.45(1)(c).