

Drone Statement #3
December 16, 2024



This afternoon, I attended a virtual meeting facilitated by the White House Office of Governmental Affairs as a part of the continuing conversation regarding the drone sightings throughout New Jersey. It was noted that there are more than one million drones lawfully registered with the FAA.

The FBI has received more than 5,000 tips of drone sightings. Utilizing geo-spatial overlays, they conclude that these sightings are a combination of lawful FAA drone operators, commercial drone hobbyists, planes, helicopters and stars. The US Coast Guard has reported that the drones are not foreign based. They are working with the NJ State Police and have deployed, and continue to deploy, Federal Resources.

The Federal Government reported that Pilots have reported lasers being shined at them, potentially causing a danger to pilots, crew and passengers. Further, shooting down a drone in New Jersey is illegal and violates federal law, as drones are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). If you shoot down a drone, you could face significant fines or even imprisonment (up to \$250,000 fine and up to 20 years imprisonment). While we know this is disconcerting, please do not take matters into your own hands for yours and other safety.

We do ask that anyone who observes suspicious activity should immediately report it to local law enforcement or NJOHSP's Counter-Threat Watch Unit at 866-4-SAFE-NJ (1-866-472-3365) or tips@njohsp.gov. Suspicious activity is any observed behavior that could be potential threats, terrorism, or other criminal activity.

This investigation is ongoing and while, I, along with other Mayors on the call, are still not getting the answers that our residents deserve, they stated that these conversations and updates with the Federal Government will continue. As any additional information is provided, I will keep you updated on this important matter.

Mayor Jon Hornik