

ORDINANCE 01-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, IN KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, IMPOSING A MORATORIUM BARRING THE USE AND OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (DRONES) WITHIN AND ABOVE THE CITY BOUNDARIES, AND THE ACCEPTANCE, PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS RELATED TO THE USE AND OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (DRONES), FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ft. Wright, Kentucky is committed to utilizing available resources to promote the preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ft. Wright, Kentucky believes it is in the best interest of the citizens of Ft. Wright to provide for concise standards and well-planned regulations to designate or restrict the use and operation of unmanned aircraft within and above the City boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Ft. Wright, Kentucky believes it is in the best interest of the citizens of Ft. Wright to evaluate the impact of drone use and operation within the City to ensure safety and maintain a high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the necessary and appropriate regulation of the use and operation of drones within and above the City boundaries requires review and possible modification of the current Ft Wright Zoning Ordinance to be more effectively enforced; and

WHEREAS, the study and implementation of various standards to regulate the use and operation of drones and preparing of such zoning ordinance modifications for the City Council's consideration requires additional time; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that imposing a moratorium is reasonably necessary, the least restrictive means available, and a legitimate and reasonable exercise of the City's authority, and in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AS FOLLOWS.

SECTION 1

"Unmanned Aircraft" (drone) means an aircraft operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircrafts.

SECTION 2

There is hereby imposed a moratorium on the use and operation of unmanned aircraft (drones) within and above the City boundaries, subject to the exceptions set forth in Section 3 of this Ordinance, and the acceptance, processing and approval of applications related to the use and operation of unmanned aircraft (drones), for a period of six (6) months. The purposes for this moratorium are based upon the preservation of

the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's citizens, including but not limited to concerns regarding citizens' privacy and protection from invasions of privacy; noise and nuisance impact; the increasing use of drones in hostile military actions and terrorist attacks; ensuring compliance with Federal Aviation Administration restrictions (including 14 CFR Part 107); and the immediate proximity of the airspace above the City to the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport.

SECTION 3

This Ordinance shall not prohibit the use or operation of unmanned aircraft by law enforcement upon obtaining a warrant authorizing its use; circumstances where a law enforcement agency determines that there is an immediate danger of death or serious injury to any person; the operation only within the boundaries of private property with the owner's consent; or the approval by City Council for the use for a specific event.

SECTION 4

Pursuant to KRS 83A.065, violations of this Ordinance may be subject to a civil fine of \$500.00 per violation, and may be enforced through injunctive actions. In the event of court action to seek injunctive relief, the City shall be entitled to recover its costs and attorney fees.

SECTION 5

Any and all Ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance shall be, and hereby are, repealed to the extent of said conflict.

SECTION 6

If any part of this ordinance or its application is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the city council intends that such invalidity will not affect the effectiveness of the remaining provisions or applications and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION 7

That this ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and shall be published under KRS 83A.060(9) and other applicable law. This ordinance may be published by summary.

Passed by City Council on April 15th, 2026.

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY

By:



Dave Hatter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kerrie Holland
Kerrie Holland, City Clerk

FIRST READING: 4-1-2026

SECOND READING: 4-15-2024

PUBLICATION: _____