



STATE FISCAL YEAR 2022 ILLINOIS FREEDOM FROM DRONE SURVEILLANCE ACT REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

Drone technology is becoming widely accessible to police departments, providing a tactical advantage that can be applied in several situations. In a 2020 Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) survey of 860 police departments, 47% of respondents reported using drones and another 34% said they were interested in the purchase a drone for their departments (Police Executive Research Forum, 2020).

Research indicates drones can add value to police work, especially in observing crowds, vehicles, and crime scenes (Engberts & Gillissen, 2016). Drones also support accident and crime scene investigation and offer a tactical advantage in dangerous situations (McNeal et al. 2017). The PERF survey revealed police agencies most commonly use drones for search and rescue, reconstruction and photography of crime scenes, investigating armed/dangerous suspects, supporting disaster responses, and reconstructing traffic accidents (Police Executive Research Forum, 2020).

While drone use is popular with law enforcement, it raises concerns among privacy advocates. Critics of expanding police drone use worry that increasing its formal capacity will bring society closer to a point in which people's rights are monitored, scrutinized, and recorded by the government (Bentley, 2018). Still, a 2019 study found public support for police drone use in response to serious offenses, such as vehicular hijackings and reckless driving (Rosenfeld, 2019).

Research is limited on the nature and extent of drone use among law enforcement. A 2017 study estimated that at least 347 police and other first responder agencies in the United States had acquired drones (Gettinger, 2017). Approximately one-third of states require police to obtain a warrant before using drones for surveillance purposes (Bentley, 2018). Nearly 90% of the agencies that reported using drones in the PERF survey reporting having departmental policies on drone use (Police Executive Research Forum, 2020).

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT DRONE REPORTING

In accordance with the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act [725 ILCS 167], the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) is mandated to annually publish a concise report listing every law enforcement agency that owns a drone and the number of drones owned. A "law enforcement agency" includes any agency or political subdivision of the state vested by law with the duty to maintain public order and enforce criminal laws. A drone is defined as any aerial vehicle that does not carry a human operator. Agencies can report drone ownership through ICJIA's [Freedom From Drone Surveillance Act Law Enforcement Reporting Form](#).¹

¹ ICJIA reports from previous fiscal years can be accessed [here](#).

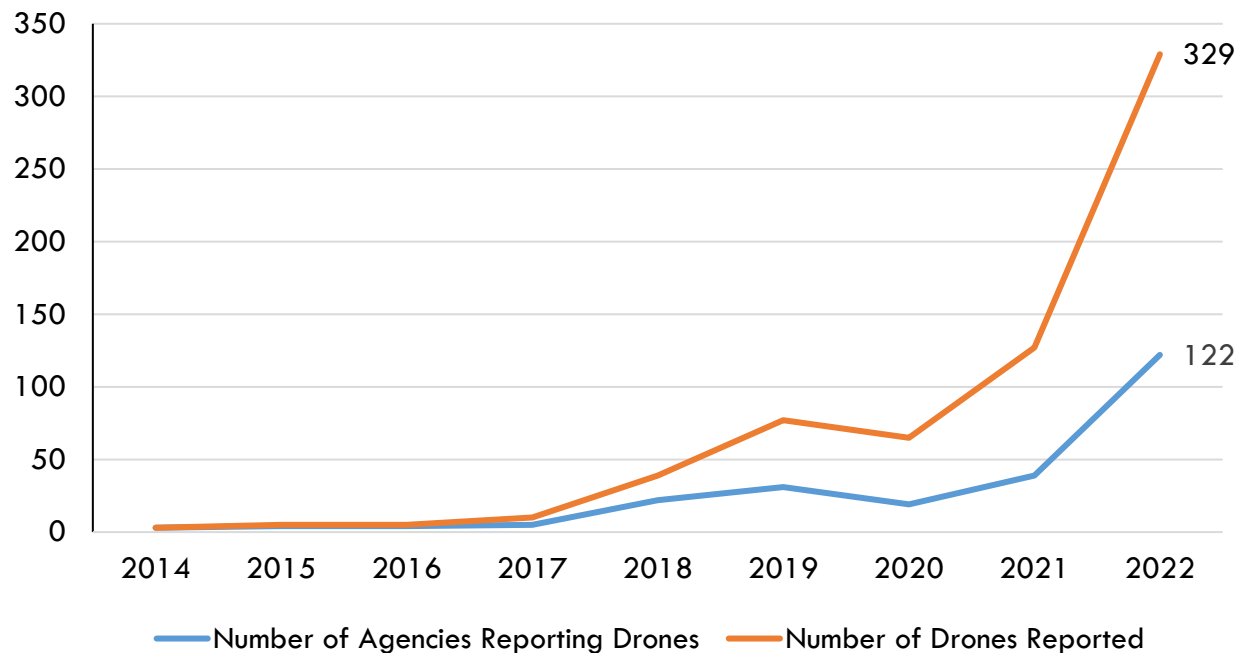
In March 2022, emails were sent to 983 law enforcement agencies requesting information on their agencies' drone ownership. The list of 1,777 police chiefs and other contacts email addresses was provided by the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System.² If an email address was not active or valid, a manual online search was conducted to find the correct address. Reminder emails were sent in April, May, and June 2022. By June 27, 2022, 547 agencies, or 56% of those contacted, had completed the form.

In Illinois, the number of law enforcement agencies reporting drones has increased from three agencies reporting three drones in SFY14, when the Act was initiated, to 123 agencies reporting 329 drones in SFY22. *Figure 1* illustrates this trend, with notable increases beginning in SFY17. This reported increase may be due, in part, to increased outreach efforts versus increased drone ownership.

² See <https://www.ileas.org/>

Figure 1

Number of Agencies Reporting Owning a Drone and Number of Drones Reported, State Fiscal Years 2014-2022



In SFY22, 122 agencies reported owning a total of 329 drones (Table 1).

Table 1

Agencies Reporting Owning a Drone by Agency Type and Number of Drones Reported

Agency	Number of Drones
Municipal Police	231
Sheriff's Office	75
Major Crash Assistance Team	6
MERIT Task Force	3
Forest Preserve/Conservation District Police	3
Railway Police	7
Emergency Management Department	2
County Rescue Squad	1
College Police	1

In SFY22, 547 agencies completed the Freedom From Drone Surveillance form (Table 2).

Table 2

Law Enforcement Agencies Reporting Drone Ownership, SFY22

Agency	Number of Drones
Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport Police	0
Addison Police Department	0
Albers Police Department	0
Aledo Police Department	0
Alexander County Sheriff's Office	0
Algonquin Police Department	0
Alma Police Department	0
Alpha Police Department	0
Alsip Police Department	0
Altamont Police Department	0
Alton & Southern Railway Police	3
Alton Police Department	2
Annawan Police Department	0
Antioch Police Department	2
Arlington Heights Police Department	2
Armington Police Department	0
Arthur Police Department	0
Assumption Police Department	0
Atwood Police Department	0
Aurora Police Department	3
Aurora University Police Department	0
Bannockburn Police Department	0
Barrington Hills Police Department	0
Barrington Police Department	0
Bartlett Police Department	2
Bartonville Police Department	0
Batavia Police Department	0
Beardstown Police Department	1
Beecher Police Department	0
Bellwood Police Department	0
Bensenville Police Department	0
Benton Police Department	0
Berwyn Police Department	0
Bethalto Police Department	0
Black Hawk College Police Department	0
Blue Island Police Department	1

Blue Mound Police Department	0
Bluffs Police Department	0
Bolingbrook Police Department	6
Bourbonnais Police Department	0
Bradley Police Department	1
Bradley University Police Department	0
Breese Police Department	0
Bridgeview Police Department	0
Broadview Police Department	0
Brookfield Police Department	1
Brookfield Zoo Police Department	0
Brooklyn Police Department	0
Brown County Sheriff's Office	0
Brownstown Police Department	0
Buffalo Grove Police Department	0
Burbank Police Department	0
Bureau County Sheriff's Office	0
Burr Ridge Police Department	0
Bushnell Police Department	0
Byron Police Department	0
Calhoun County Sheriff's Office	0
Calumet City Police Department	0
Canton Police Department	0
Carbondale Police Department	2
Carl Sandburg College Department of Public Safety	0
Carlinville Police Department	0
Carmi Police Department	0
Carol Stream Police Department	0
Carpentersville Police Department	1
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	0
Carterville Police Department	0
Carthage Police Department	0
Cary Police Department	1
Casey Police Department	0
Caseyville Police Department	0
Cass County Sheriff's Office	0
Catlin Police Department	0
Centralia Police Department	0
Champaign County Sheriff's Office	0
Champaign Police Department	0
Channahon Police Department	1

Charleston Police Department	0
Chatham Police Department	0
Chenoa Police Department	0
Cherry Valley Police Department	0
Chester Police Department	2
Chicago Heights Police Department	0
Chicago Police Department	12
Chicago Ridge Police Department	0
Chillicothe Police Department	0
Chrisman Police Department	0
Christian County Sheriff's Office	0
Cicero Police Department	0
Clarendon Hills Police Department	0
Clark County Sheriff's Office	1
Clinton Police Department	0
Coal City Police Department	0
Coal Valley Police Department	0
College of DuPage Police Department	0
Collinsville Police Department	0
Colona Police Department	0
Columbia Police Department	0
Cook County Sheriff's Office	8
Cortland Police Department	0
Country Club Hills Police Department	2
Countryside Police Department	0
Crainville Police Department	0
Crestwood Police Department	0
Crete Police Department	0
Creve Coeur Police Department	0
Crystal Lake Park District Police	0
Crystal Lake Police Department	0
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office	0
Dallas City Police Department	0
Dana Police Department	0
Danville Police Department	0
Darien Police Department	0
Decatur Park District Police Department	0
Decatur Police Department	3
Deer Creek Police Department	0
Deerfield Police Department	0
Delavan Police Department	0

DePue Police Department	0
Des Plaines Police Department	0
DeSoto Police Department	0
Dewitt County Sheriff's Office	0
Dixon Police Department	2
Douglas County Sheriff's Office	0
Downers Grove Police Department	1
Downs Police Department	0
DuPage County Forest Preserve Police	2
DuPage County Sheriff's Office	1
DuPage MERIT Task Force	3
Dupo Police Department	0
Earlville Police Department	0
East Dundee Police Department	0
East Hazel Crest Police Department	0
East Moline Police Department	0
East Peoria Police Department	3
Edgar County Sheriff's Office	0
Edwardsville Police Department	0
Effingham County Sheriff's Office	0
Effingham Police Department	2
El Paso Police Department	0
Elburn Police Department	1
Eldorado Police Department	0
Elgin Community College Police Department	0
Elgin Police Department	11
Elizabeth Police Department	0
Elk Grove Village Police Department	0
Ellis Grove Police Department	0
Elmhurst Police Department	0
Elmwood Police Department	0
Elwood Police Department	0
Energy Police Department	0
Essex Police Department	0
Eureka College Police Department	0
Eureka Police Department	0
Evanston Police Department	3
Evergreen Park Police Department	0
Fairbury Police Department	0
Fairfield Police Department	0
Fairmont City Police Department	0

Fairmount Police Department	0
Fairview Heights Police Department	1
Farmer City Police Department	0
Fisher Police Department	0
Flora Police Department	0
Flossmoor Police Department	0
Fon du Lac Park District Police Department	0
Forest Park Police Department	0
Forest Preserve District of Kane County Police	0
Forest Preserve District of Will County Police	0
Forest Preserves of Cook County Police	0
Fox Lake Police Department	1
Fox River Grove Police Department	0
Fox Valley Park District Police Department	0
Frankfort Police Department	0
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	0
Franklin Park Police Department	0
Freeport Police Department	0
Fulton County Sheriff's Office	0
Fulton Police Department	0
Galesburg Police Department	0
Galva Police Department	0
Geneva Police Department	0
Germantown Police Department	0
Gibson City Police Department	0
Gilberts Police Department	0
Girard Police Department	0
Glasford Police Department	0
Glen Carbon Police Department	2
Glen Ellyn Police Department	1
Glenview Police Department	0
Glenwood Police Department	0
Grafton Police Department	0
Granite City Police Department	1
Grantfork Police Department	0
Granville Police Department	0
Grayslake Police Department	1
Greene County Sheriff's Office	0
Greenville Police Department	0
Grundy County Sheriff's Office	8
Gurnee Police Department	1

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office	0
Hampton Police Department	0
Hanover Park Police Department	1
Harrisburg Police Department	0
Hartford Police Department	0
Harwood Heights Police Department	0
Havana Police Department	0
Hawthorn Woods Police Department	0
Henderson County Sheriff's Office	0
Henry Police Department	0
Herrin Police Department	0
Heyworth Police Department	0
Hickory Hills Police Department	0
Highland Park Police Department	2
Highland Police Department	1
Highwood Police Department	0
Hinckley Police Department	0
Hoffman Estates Police Department	0
Homer Police Department	0
Hometown Police Department	0
Homewood Police Department	0
Huntley Police Department	2
Illinois State Police	47
Illinois State University Police	0
Ina Police Department	0
Inverness Police Department	0
Irvington Police Department	1
Island Lake Police Department	0
Itasca Police Department	0
Jackson County Sheriff's Office	2
Jacksonville Police Department	2
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office	0
Jerseyville Police Department	0
Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Office	1
John A. Logan College Police	0
John Wood Community College Police	0
Johnsburg Police Department	0
Johnson County Sheriff's Office	0
Johnston City Police Department	0
Joliet Junior College Police	0
Joliet Police Department	5

Justice Police Department	0
Kane County Sheriff's Office	8
Kankakee County Sheriff's Office	5
Kankakee Police Department	1
Kendall County Sheriff's Office	2
Kenilworth Police Department	0
Kewanee Police Department	1
Kildeer Police Department	0
Kingston Police Department	0
Kirkland Police Department	0
Knox County Sheriff's Office	0
Knoxville Police Department	0
La Grange Park Police Department	0
La Grange Police Department	0
Lake Bluff Police Department	0
Lake County Major Crash Assistance Team	6
Lake County Sheriff's Office	14
Lake Forest Police Department	3
Lake in the Hills Police Department	0
Lake Villa Police Department	1
Lake Zurich Police Department	0
Lakemoor Police Department	0
Lanark Police Department	0
Lansing Police Department	0
LaSalle County Sheriff's Office	0
LaSalle Police Department	0
Lee County Emergency Management	2
Lee County Sheriff's Office	0
Leland Police Department	0
Lemont Police Department	0
LeRoy Police Department	0
Lewis University Police	0
Libertyville Police Department	1
Lincoln Police Department	2
Lincolnshire Police Department	0
Lincolnwood Police Department	0
Lindenhurst Police Department	0
Lisle Police Department	0
Litchfield Police Department	0
Livingston County Sheriff's Office	1
Loami Police Department	0

Lockport Police Department	0
Lockport Township Park District Police	0
Logan County Sheriff's Office	1
Lombard Police Department	2
Loves Park Police Department	0
Lynwood Police Department	0
Macomb Police Department	0
Macon County Sheriff's Office	0
Macoupin County Sheriff's Office	1
Madison County Sheriff's Office	3
Madison Police Department	0
Malta Police Department	0
Manhattan Police Department	0
Manteno Police Department	1
Maple Park Police Department	0
Marengo Police Department	0
Marine Police Department	0
Marion County Sheriff's Office	1
Marion Police Department	0
Marquette Heights Police Department	0
Marshall County Sheriff's Office	0
Marshall Police Department	0
Mascoutah Police Department	0
Massac County Sheriff's Office	0
Matteson Police Department	0
Mattoon Police Department	1
Maywood Police Department	0
McCook Police Department	1
McHenry County College Police	0
McHenry County Conservation District Police	1
McHenry County Sheriff's Office	2
McHenry Police Department	1
McLean County Sheriff's Office	1
McLean Police Department	0
McLeansboro Police Department	0
Melrose Park Police Department	0
Menard County Sheriff's Office	0
Metamora Police Department	0
Metra Railroad Police Department	4
Metropolis Police Department	0
Metropolitan Airport Authority Police	0

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Police	0
Milan Police Department	0
Millikin University Police Department	0
Minier Police Department	0
Mokena Police Department	3
Moline Police Department	0
Momence Police Department	0
Monee Police Department	0
Monmouth Police Department	0
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	0
Monticello Police Department	0
Moraine Valley Police Department	0
Morris Police Department	2
Morrisonville Police Department	0
Morton Grove Police Department	0
Morton Police Department	0
Moultrie County Sheriff's Office	0
Mount Carmel Police Department	1
Mount Carroll Police Department	0
Mount Prospect Police Department	2
Mt. Olive Police Department	0
Mt. Vernon Police Department	1
Mt. Zion Police Department	0
Mundelein Police Department	0
Naperville Park District Police	0
Naperville Police Department	4
Neoga Police Department	0
New Athens Police Department	0
New Baden Police Department	0
New Lenox Police Department	0
Newman Police Department	0
Newton Police Department	0
Niles Police Department	2
Normal Police Department	1
Norridge Police Department	0
North Aurora Police Department	2
North Riverside Police Department	1
North Utica Police Department	0
Northbrook Police Department	2
Northeastern Illinois University Police Department	0
Northfield Police Department	0

Northlake Police Department	0
Northwestern University Police Department	0
Oak Brook Police Department	0
Oak Forest Police Department	1
Oak Park Police Department	0
Oakbrook Terrace Police Department	1
Oakton Community College Police Department	0
Oakwood Hills Police Department	0
O'Fallon Police Department	0
Ogle County Sheriff's Office	2
Okawville Police Department	0
Olney Police Department	0
Olympia Fields Police Department	0
Oquawka Police Department	0
Oregon Police Department	0
Orland Park Police Department	4
Oswego Police Department	2
Ottawa Police Department	0
Palatine Police Department	2
Palmyra Police Department	0
Palos Heights Police Department	2
Palos Hills Police Department	0
Palos Park Police Department	0
Paris Police Department	0
Park Forest Police Department	0
Parkland College Police Department	0
Paxton Police Department	0
Pearl City Police Department	0
Pekin Park District Police	0
Pekin Police Department	0
Peoria County Sheriff's Office	3
Peoria Heights Police Department	0
Perry County Sheriff's Office	0
Peru Police Department	0
Piatt County Sheriff's Office	0
Pike County Sheriff's Office	0
Pinckneyville Police Department	0
Pingree Grove Police Department	0
Pittsburg Police Department	0
Plainfield Police Department	5
Pleasant Plains Police Department	0

Pontiac Police Department	1
Pontoon Beach Police Department	0
Posen Police Department	0
Prairie Grove Police Department	0
Princeton Police Department	1
Prospect Heights Police Department	0
Pulaski County Sheriff's Office	1
Putnam County Sheriff's Office	0
Quincy Police Department	4
Ramsey Police Department	0
Red Bud Police Department	0
Rend Lake College Police Department	0
Richland Community College Department of Public Safety	0
Richland County Sheriff's Office	0
Richmond Police Department	0
Richton Park Police Department	0
Ridge Farm Police Department	0
River Forest Police Department	1
River Grove Police Department	0
Riverton Police Department	0
Riverwoods Police Department	0
Robinson Police Department	2
Rochelle Police Department	0
Rock Falls Police Department	0
Rock Island County Sheriff's Office	0
Rock Island Police Department	0
Rock Valley College Police Department	0
Rockdale Police Department	0
Rockford Park District Police	0
Rockford Police Department	7
Rockton Police Department	0
Roscoe Police Department	0
Roselle Police Department	0
Rossville Police Department	0
Round Lake Park Police Department	0
Round Lake Police Department	1
Royalton Police Department	0
Saint Xavier Police Department	0
Salem Police Department	0
Sandoval Police Department	0

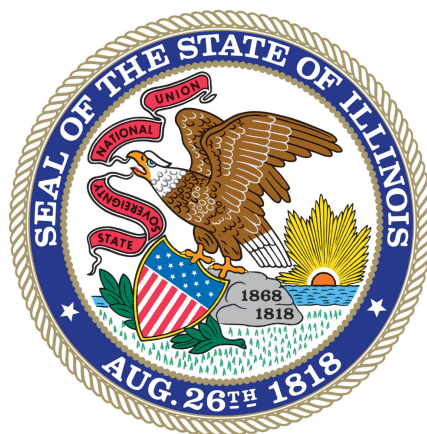
Sangamon County Rescue Squad	1
Sangamon County Sheriff's Office	0
Savanna Police Department	0
Schaumburg Police Department	0
Schuyler County Sheriff's Office	0
Scott County Sheriff's Office	0
Shannon Police Department	0
Shelbyville Police Department	0
Sherman Police Department	0
Shiloh Police Department	0
Shorewood Police Department	0
Sidell Police Department	0
Silvis Police Department	0
Skokie Police Department	3
Sleepy Hollow Police Department	0
Somonauk Police Department	0
South Beloit Police Department	0
South Elgin Police Department	0
South Jacksonville Police Department	0
South Roxana Police Department	1
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Police Department	0
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Police Department	0
Sparta Police Department	0
Spring Grove Police Department	0
Spring Valley Police Department	0
Springfield Police Department	0
St. Charles Police Department	0
St. Clair County Sheriff's Office	2
Stanford Police Department	0
Staunton Police Department	0
Steger Police Department	0
Stephenson County Sheriff's Office	0
Sterling Police Department	0
Stickney Police Department	0
Stockton Police Department	0
Streamwood Police Department	2
Streator Police Department	0
Sugar Grove Police Department	0
Sullivan Police Department	0
Summerfield Police Department	0

Sumner Police Department	0
Swansea Police Department	0
Sycamore Police Department	0
Taylorville Police Department	1
Tazewell County Sheriff's Office	2
Terminal Railroad Police Department	0
Thayer Police Department	0
Thomasboro Police Department	0
Tolono Police Department	0
Tremont Police Department	0
Triton College Police	1
Troy Police Department	0
Tuscola Police Department	0
Union County Sheriff's Office	1
University of Illinois at Chicago Police Department	0
University of Illinois Police Department	0
University of Illinois Springfield Police Department	0
University Park Police Department	0
Urbana Police Department	0
Valmeyer Police Department	0
Vandalia Police Department	0
Vernon Hills Police Department	1
Vienna Police Department	0
Villa Grove Police Department	0
Walnut Police Department	0
Wamac Police Department	0
Warren County Sheriff's Office	1
Warrenville Police Department	0
Washington Police Department	0
Watseka Police Department	0
Wauconda Police Department	0
Waukegan Police Department	4
West Chicago Police Department	3
West Dundee Police Department	1
West Salem Police Department	0
Westchester Police Department	1
Western Illinois University Office of Public Safety	0
Western Springs Police Department	0
Westmont Police Department	0
Westville Police Department	0
Wheaton Police Department	3

Wheeling Police Department	0
Williamson County Sheriff's Office	1
Williamsville Police Department	1
Willowbrook Police Department	0
Wilmette Police Department	3
Wilmington Police Department	0
Windsor Police Department	0
Winfield Police Department	0
Winnebago County Sheriff's Office	2
Winnetka Police Department	0
Winthrop Harbor Police Department	0
Wonder Lake Police Department	0
Woodford County Sheriff's Office	0
Woodridge Police Department	0
Woodstock Police Department	0
Worden Police Department	0
Worth Police Department	0
Wyanet Police Department	0
Yorkville Police Department	0
Zeigler Police Department	0
Zion Police Department	0

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