

255 N. 4th St.
PO Box 5200
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5200



City of Grand Forks
(701) 746-4636

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1613
House Judiciary
February 4, 2024**

**Jason Freedman, Chief of Police
City of Grand Forks, ND**

Chairman Klemin, members of the committee. Please accept my written testimony in opposition to HB 1613.

The use of Drones/UAS and robotics have greatly improved and enhanced law enforcement's ability to effectively respond to high risk and challenging situations including criminal actions, natural disasters, life/safety emergencies, and many others.

Drones and robotics provide capabilities to observe, gather information, and inform both decision making and the application of resources. These platforms often have the ability to establish lines of communication, which is critical in successfully resolving events. Importantly, drones and robotics greatly reduce the risk to law enforcement personnel by allowing them to remain at a distance from the potential threat(s). Not only does this increase the safety of law enforcement, but it also reduces the potential for unnecessarily escalating a situation.

Warrants are appropriate for certain static or planned situations as there is time for law enforcement to consider their use and apply. However, requiring a warrant for a rapidly evolving situation isn't feasible, and may result in increased risks to the safety of officers and the community. An active shooter in a school; a hostage situation in a bank; or a kidnapping in progress are a just few of the many incidents where the quick application of drones or robotics would be critical to achieve the best possible resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing my above points in respectful opposition to HB 1613.

Respectfully,
Jason Freedman
Grand Forks Chief of Police