

PUBLIC SAFETY & QUALITY OF LIFE CONCERNS REGARDING PROPOSED AMAZON DRONE OPERATIONS

The North Branford Police Department is aware of the proposed Amazon Prime Air drone delivery operation in North Haven and the potential impact these operations could have on surrounding communities, including North Branford.

We want to acknowledge and thank our local elected representatives and community leaders who have taken notice of this proposal, asked questions, and recognized the importance of understanding its potential impact on the communities they represent. Their awareness and willingness to examine these issues are important as this proposal moves through the approval process.

This is an issue that deserves serious public-safety and quality-of-life consideration before operations begin.

According to the FAA's materials, the proposed operation could involve up to 1,000 drone delivery flights per day, seven days a week, within a 7.5-mile operating radius of the North Haven facility. The proposed operating hours extend from 6:00 a.m. until 10:30 p.m.

That represents the potential for a significant and unprecedented increase in low-altitude aircraft activity over residential communities.

From a law-enforcement and emergency-services perspective, there are important questions that must be answered:

- ◆ What happens when an emergency occurs beneath or within the drone operating area?
- ◆ How will drone operations be coordinated with police, fire, EMS, search-and-rescue operations, helicopters and other emergency aviation activity?
- ◆ What procedures are in place to immediately restrict or suspend drone operations during a major emergency, severe weather event, disaster, active search, hazardous-material incident or other public-safety event?
- ◆ How will law enforcement identify and address a drone that malfunctions, crashes, enters a restricted area, interferes with an emergency operation, or becomes involved in an incident?

- ◆ What safeguards are in place to protect residents, private property and the public below these flight paths?

These aren't theoretical questions. The proposed operating area encompasses a significant portion of the surrounding region, meaning the impact extends well beyond the immediate area surrounding the Amazon facility.

QUALITY OF LIFE MATTERS TOO

Public safety isn't limited to emergency response.

Residents deserve to know what the long-term effect of potentially hundreds or thousands of drone flights will be on their homes, neighborhoods, privacy, peace and quiet, and overall quality of life.

The proposed operating window extends from early morning through late evening. The potential for frequent drone activity during those hours raises legitimate questions about noise, privacy and the cumulative impact on residential neighborhoods.

The question is not whether drone technology has legitimate benefits. It clearly does.

The question is whether the scale, frequency, flight patterns, noise, safety protocols and emergency-response procedures associated with this particular operation have been adequately evaluated for the communities underneath the proposed flight area.

Once this type of operation becomes established, changing its impact on surrounding neighborhoods may be considerably more difficult than addressing those concerns before the operation begins.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is currently conducting a federal consistency review of the proposed operation, and public comments are being accepted through October 1, 2026.

We encourage residents to become informed about the proposal and to make their voices heard through the appropriate state and federal processes.

The North Branford Police Department will continue to monitor this issue from the standpoint of public safety, emergency response, community impact and quality of life.

Technology and innovation are important—but so are the safety, security and quality of life of the residents who live beneath it.

We appreciate the local elected officials and community leaders who are paying attention to this issue and advocating for their residents. This is an important conversation, and it deserves careful consideration before these operations take flight.