



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

Board of Supervisors

**DATE:** September 4, 2002

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** September 10, 2002

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Supervisor Mark Church *mc*  
**SUBJECT:** Security Measures for San Mateo County's Airports

**Recommendation**

Adopt an Ordinance requiring flight school operators at San Mateo County's Airports to require background checks on flight school applicants.

**Discussion**

At the present time there is no federal or state legislation which requires any kind of background check on applicants to flight schools. There are presently three flight schools operating on San Mateo County Airports. Given the events of the recent past with regard to aircraft being utilized for the purpose of destroying property and endangering human life, it would be appropriate to establish a security requirement of a background check for prospective student pilots at said flight schools.

The ordinance amendment would add a provision to the County Airport Regulations found in the County Ordinance Code and be in harmony with the County's obligation to safeguard the public in general, insure the safe, continuous and efficient operation of the airports and provide a degree of security for the airports which appears necessary at this time. The background check will be conducted by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department at a present cost to the applicant of \$74.00. The check will consist of fingerprinting and the submission of the prints to the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a criminal background review.

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**Vision Alignment**

The above recommendation is consistent with the County's commitment to "ensure basic health and safety for all." Specifically, it addresses goal number 7, which is to "maintain and enhance the public safety of all residents and visitors," as the background checks in question will assist the schools in identifying applicants who may be a threat to the public safety of the residents of San Mateo County.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no impact on the General Fund.

A form of ordinance has been approved by County Counsel.

cc: John L. Maltbie, County Manager  
Neil R. Cullen, Director of Public Works  
Thomas F. Casey III, County Counsel

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