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# OBITUARIES

## Rilely Furgason

Riley Dane Furgason, infant son of Tori Nichole Anderson-Furgason and Derek Leonard Furgason, was stillborn on June 9, 2023, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana.



Furgason

Private family services will be held. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting the family.

He is survived by his parents, Tori Anderson-Furgason and Derek Furgason of Arcola; one brother, Tristan Anderson; and one sister, Serenity Simpson; maternal grandparents, Terry and Robin Anderson and Lori Ashley-Anderson all of Arcola; paternal grandparents, Gary and Judi Furgason and Sylvia Ayala all of Portland, Ore.; and

great grandparents, Jean and Delbert Dowell, and Dorothy Ashley, all of Arcola.

He was preceded in death by his maternal great Pepaw, Edward Ray Ashley; paternal great grandparents, Everett and Stella Furgason and Fred and Marion Ford.

*Additional obituaries are in the B Section*

## Illinois expands use of police surveillance drones

By **ANDREW ADAMS**  
Capitol News Illinois  
aadamscapitolnewsillinois.com  
CHICAGO – Next time you attend a parade, there might be an eye in the sky.

A new law signed by Gov. JB Pritzker on Friday expands local police departments' authority to use drones to surveil certain events, respond to certain 911 calls, inspect buildings and participate in public relations events.

House Bill 3902 passed 56-1 in the Senate and 84-7 in the House with three members voting "present." The law drew some concerns from civil liberties groups which ultimately led to added privacy protections and disclosure requirements.

The push to expand when police drone authority originated after a 2019 mass shooting at the Henry Pratt Company in Aurora, according to the bill's House sponsor, Rep. Barbara Hernandez, D-Aurora. She and others received renewed calls after a 2022 shooting at a July 4th parade in Highland Park last year.

Kenny Winslow, executive director of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, supported the measure and is

already planning to offer training on the new law to police departments. He said drone technology could save lives and expects more departments to use them moving forward.

But he added that the protections contained in the bill – including requirements that police post notices if they are surveilling an event and keep a record of flight paths – were an important part of the final product.

The ACLU of Illinois – a civil rights organization that has long been a voice of opposition to unrestricted drone use by police departments – took a neutral stance on the bill. ACLU staff were key architects of a 2013 state law referred to as the Freedom from Drone Surveillance Act that placed significant restrictions on police drone use.

Under the new law, drones may only be used at outdoor, government-hosted events. These include events such as parades, walks, races, concerts or food festivals. These events must meet minimum size requirements depending on the size of the municipality in which they are hosted in order for police to use drones.

The law explicitly bars



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drones from being used to monitor "any political protest, march, demonstration, or other assembly protected by the First Amendment."

The law also allows police to use drones when responding to 911 calls to find victims, to assist with health or safety needs or to coordinate emergency personnel.

The information collected using drones, which could include video, images, sounds or other data, may only be stored temporarily and must be deleted within 24 hours after a parade or other special event and within 30 days for most other uses. There are some exceptions where police may retain that information, such as if there is reasonable suspicion that the information contains evidence of criminal activity, if the information is relevant to an ongoing investigation or if it will be used for future training.

The Illinois Attorney General's office can investigate police departments' patterns and practices of drone

use and compel their compliance by seeking a court order. Departments can lose drone authority for at least six months the first time they are found to violate the law and up to one year for subsequent violations.

The law also explicitly bans police from equipping drones with weapons, such as firearms, chemical irritants or lasers.

The law also places significant restrictions on the use of facial recognition technology in conjunction with drones, barring police from using it during a flight and only allowing it to counter a high risk of a terrorist incident based on U.S. Department of Homeland Security intelligence or to prevent "imminent harm to life or to forestall the imminent escape of a suspect of the destruction of evidence."

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