



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

June 12, 2019
Agenda Item No. 6.6

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

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TITLE: Harbormaster Update – May 2019

ABSTRACT:

The Harbormaster is responsible for on-water management of the City's moorings, the Marina Park Marina and code enforcement on the water. This report will update the Commission on the Harbor Department's activities for May, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.
- 2) Receive and file.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

DISCUSSION:

Public Docks - Public Information and Enforcement Efforts

Public information and enforcement efforts continued with the local boating community at the Harbor's public docks. Informational sandwich boards were relocated to different docks at the start of May, to reach different Harbor users. These poster style displays are intended to inform users about posted dock time limits and use expectations. The displays also state that non-compliance with the posted time limits can result in vessel impounds.

Individual public dock time limit notices were affixed to 201 boats during the month of May (106 boats at 15th Street Dock; 60 boats at 19th Street Dock; and 35 boats at Fernando

Street Dock). Ninety-seven percent of the boats receiving these notices made use of the docks as intended, departing the docks within posted time limits. Six boats overstayed the posted time limits during the May enforcement period and were subsequently impounded by Harbor Department staff.

Approximately 24 linear feet at the 15th Street Public Dock, formerly designated as a “72 hour zone” was reallocated as a “24 hour zone”, following the approval of this modification at the May 2019 Harbor Commission meeting. Staff will be actively monitoring boat movement in this area to determine if the desired outcome (greater utilization of the dock) is being achieved.

Harbor Department – Expanded Summer Schedule

On-water scheduling of Harbor Department staff was expanded effective May 1. Sunday through Wednesday coverage is now being scheduled until 7:30 p.m., and Thursday through Saturday coverage is being scheduled until 8:30 p.m.

This change results an additional seventeen (17) hours of weekly Harbor Department on-water coverage vs. the former winter/spring staffing schedule. The department’s Marina Park office hours remain unchanged, however customer service telephone lines are forwarded to field staff when the office closes at 5 pm each night.

Anchorage Raft-Up Activities

Two raft-up events (each comprised of 10 to 12 participating vessels) took place in the Harbor’s anchorage area during the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Both events were successful, taking place without incident.

Scheduling two large-scale programs concurrently within the anchorage, during what was expected to be a busy weekend, allowed Harbor Department staff to evaluate a standing operational practice of hosting no more than two large raft-ups on any given day. This principle was originally established by the Orange County Sheriff’s Department during their tenure overseeing the anchorage, and has continued following the transition to the Harbor Department’s oversight.

Adverse weather conditions during the holiday weekend made it difficult to fully assess overall use of the anchorage between casual users and scheduled/permitted activities.

Harbor Department staff believe the practice of limiting the overall number of scheduled events held in the anchorage should continue unchanged, while additional monitoring also takes place.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

During May 2019, twelve (12) customer satisfaction surveys were completed and returned to the Harbor Department office associated with visiting boaters at the Marina Park Guest Slips. A summary of the feedback/data received from these customers is attached as part of this report.

Community Service Project – Monofilament (Fishing Line) Recycling Bins

On Thursday, May 30, 2019, four middle-school students from Pasadena's Polytechnic School, presented the Harbor Department with three monofilament recycling bins, which they built as part of a class-related community service project. The students proposed this project to the Harbor Department, following one of them having observed fishing line regularly left on the public dock near their Newport Beach home. Because monofilament fishing line is non-biodegradable, improperly disposed of material can entangle and injure local wildlife and can damage vessel props within the Harbor. The three recycling bins will be installed on a trial basis at various locations in the Harbor.

Staff Recruitment Effort

Part-time Harbor Department staff recruitment efforts were completed in late May, resulting in seven conditional offers of employment being extended. As of June 4, 2019, one of these new staff members has completed the City's on-boarding process and is now taking part in orientation and training activities. The remaining new team members are expected to complete their on-boarding within the next two weeks. A diverse set of qualified individuals were selected through this recruitment effort, many of whom bring with them familiarity of Newport Harbor, as well as customer service and operations experiences in various marine settings.

Code Enforcement Activity

During May 2019, Code Enforcement staff opened 61 new cases and successfully resolved/closed 37 existing files.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the Harbor Commission find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Harbor Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Marina Park Guest Slip Customer Survey Results for May 2019

Attachment B – Harbor Department Statistics, Fiscal Year through May 2019