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NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

August 14, 2019
Agenda Item No. 7.3

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

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TITLE: Harbormaster Update – July 2019

ABSTRACT:

The Harbormaster is responsible for the management of the City's mooring fields, the Marina Park Guest Marina and Harbor on-water code enforcement activities. This report will update the Commission on the Harbor Department's activities for July 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; and
- 2) Receive and file.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

DISCUSSION:

July 4th Harbor Activities

Boating and beach activity were heavy in Newport Harbor on Independence Day 2019. July 4th festivities began at 12:30 pm with the American Legion Yacht Club's Old Glory Boat Parade, with high use of the bay continuing throughout the day. Heavy use of the waterways wrapped up with the evening's fireworks display. The Harbor Department scheduled additional resources for the holiday, staffing on-water patrols until 9:30 pm. Harbor Department services were well utilized, and the day's activities were largely free of incident.

Harbor Awareness in Lifesaving Techniques (HALT)

On Sunday, July 14 and on Monday, July 22 Brandon Hodding from the City's Lifeguard team organized awareness and lifesaving techniques training sessions for Harbor Department service workers and leads. The two-hour program provided classroom instruction and field experiences with on-water lifesaving techniques. The program's emphasis was on strategies staff could deploy to assist those in distress without putting themselves at risk of injury. The training sessions were well received by staff and have resulted in several operational changes within the department.

On-Line Reservation Requests for Guest Slips and Short Term Mooring Rentals

On Wednesday, July 17 the Harbor Department staff met with Avery Maglinti, Jackie Luengas-Alwafai and Micheal Wojciechowski from the City's IT team, where they demonstrated an on-line reservation request system they developed for harbor customers interested in renting guest slips at Marina Park or booking short term mooring rentals.

System updates based on feedback received from the department at our meeting and final testing efforts are currently underway. The new on-line functionality is expected to 'go-live' sometime in mid- to late August, and will be available both on the Harbor Department's website and the mobile "My Newport Beach" app. Once launched, this on-line reservations functionality will represent a significant 'after business hours' customer service to harbor users.

Public Information and Departmental Outreach Efforts

Meetings with community stakeholder groups and participating with local media outlets continued during July 2019. Taking advantage of these 'get the word out' opportunities has assisted the department in informing the general public about the Harbor Department and its mission.

On Tuesday, July 9 the Harbormaster participated in filming an interview segment of "On the Village Green with Nancy Gardner", a community television program that appears on local access. The segment has since aired, which presented an overview of the Harbor Department's functions and focused on how boaters and community members can contribute to maintaining quality environmental standards in the Harbor.

On Wednesday, July 10, the Harbor Department hosted Jo Kwon, a reporter from Spectrum 1 News, as she filmed a "Day in the Life of the Newport Beach Harbor Department" segment. Ms. Kwon was paired with two of the Harbor Department leads, one performing typical patrol duties out in the bay, and the other assisting visitors in the Marina Park guest slips. A future air date for segment is expected.

On Thursday, July 11 the Harbormaster was extended a speaking opportunity at a meeting of the Newport Harbor Exchange Club, and on Saturday, July 13 at the Little Balboa Island Property Owners Association. Both presentations focused on providing overview information about the Harbor Department, as well as taking questions from community members. Both meetings were well attended and the presentations were well received.

Department Patrol Vessel Procurement

During July 2019, with the assistance of Public Works and Finance Department staff, a request for proposals (RFP) process was conducted for the procurement of two Harbor Department patrol vessels.

A staff recommendation will now advance to City Council, to purchase two (2) Maritime Patriot 210 patrol boats. These vessels are each 20'9" in length, with center console design and are equipped with 115 horse powered outboard engines. An approximate twenty week lead time is expected for the fabrication and delivery of the vessels. As proposed, these vessels would replace the two catamaran patrol vessels currently used by the Harbor Department, which are rented by the City through an agreement with a local non-profit organization.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

During July 2019, twenty (20) 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 shown in Attachment A.

Code Enforcement Activity

During July 2019, Code Enforcement staff opened 114 new cases and successfully resolved/closed 74 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 July 2019
Attachment B – Harbor Department Statistics, Fiscal Year through July 2019