The background features a circular logo for Capitola Recreation. The logo is divided into two horizontal sections. The top section shows a yellow sun in a blue sky. The bottom section shows a beach scene with a lifeguard in a dark silhouette running on the sand, and a swimmer in a dark silhouette in the water. The words "CAPITOLA RECREATION" are written in a circular path around the central image.

# Capitola Lifeguard Service season statistics and operation schedule

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# BACKGROUND

- Staff from Planning, Police, Public Works and Recreation have been reviewing the code and polices regarding special events.
- Staff intends to present an update to Council by the end of the year.
  - Review and Revise Municipal Code
  - Streamline approval process for Special Event Permits
  - Redefine Thresholds for Special Events
  - Review cost sharing and fee for staff time



## BACKGROUND

- Capitola Lifeguard Service's first season concluded in October.
- Season began May 26- Memorial Day Weekend
  - Seven days a week
  - Ended after Labor Day Monday
- After Labor Day Weekend, service provided on weekends until October 15
  - Events and Weekend visitors



# BACKGROUND

- Staff applied to United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) in September
  - Certified Open Water Lifeguard Agency
- On November 4<sup>th</sup>, the City was approved as a USLA Certified Lifeguard Agency.
  - November 2026





# What does Lifeguard Service accomplish?

- Community Outreach
  - Educate
  - Guide
  - Represent the City of Capitola
- Emergency Response
  - Anticipate
  - Prevent
  - Respond



# Higher Risk Populations of Drowning

Youth

Males

Race and  
Ethnicity

Epilepsy





## Activities Associated with Drowning



Swimming



Boating



Diving



Alcohol  
Consumption

# Prevention Action

Public  
Contacts

Enforcement





# Public Safety Contact

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- Educate Beachgoers
  - Beach and Water Hazards
  - Unsafe Activities
  - Water Conditions
  - General Information



# ENFORCEMENT

- Lifeguard role in enforcement
  1. Educate beachgoers
  2. Inform the public on City Municode
  3. Update PD on beach activity that requires their service



Resources 

#### 5. Mobile Units



#### 6. LG1



#### 7. Command Staff



#### 8. External Agencies



## Digital Command Center

Legal  
Documentation



## Statistics

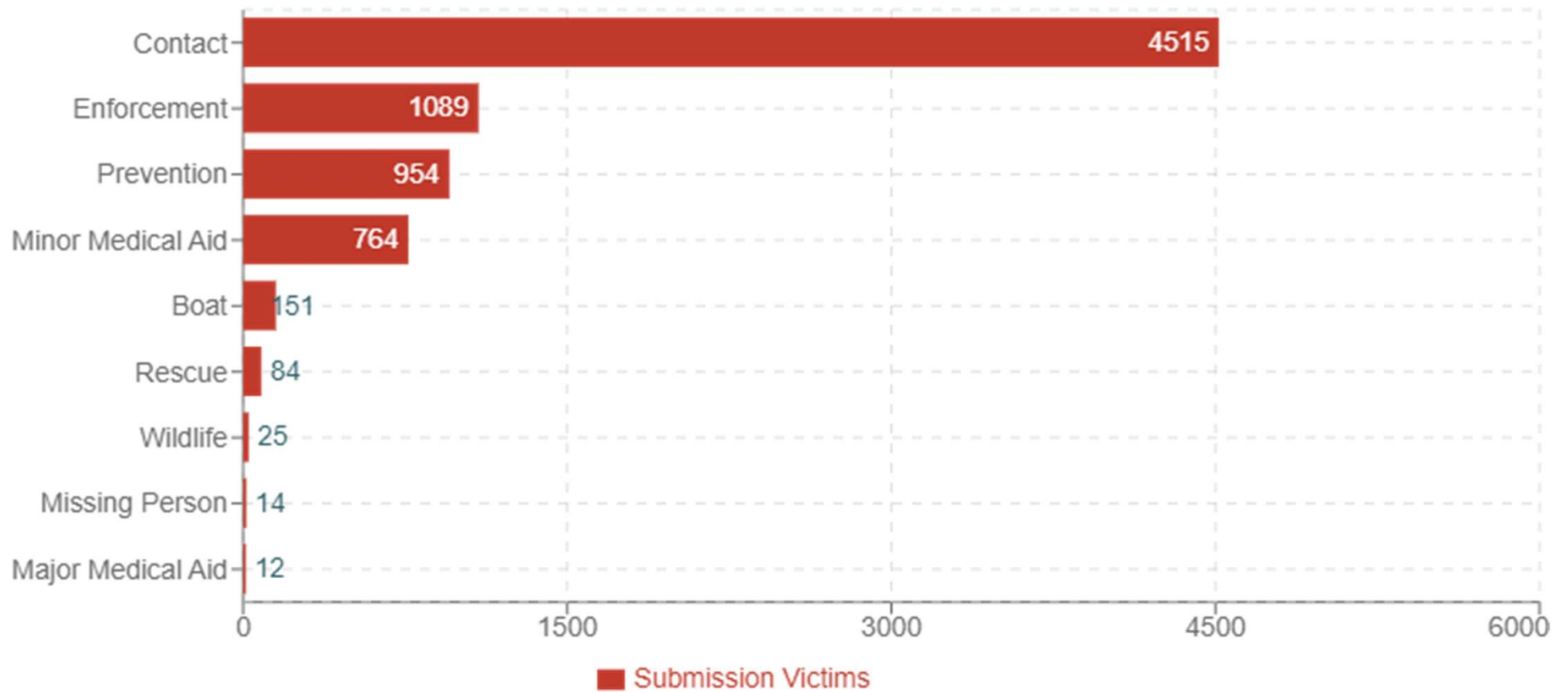
Correlates External Factors with  
Calls for Service

Quality of service

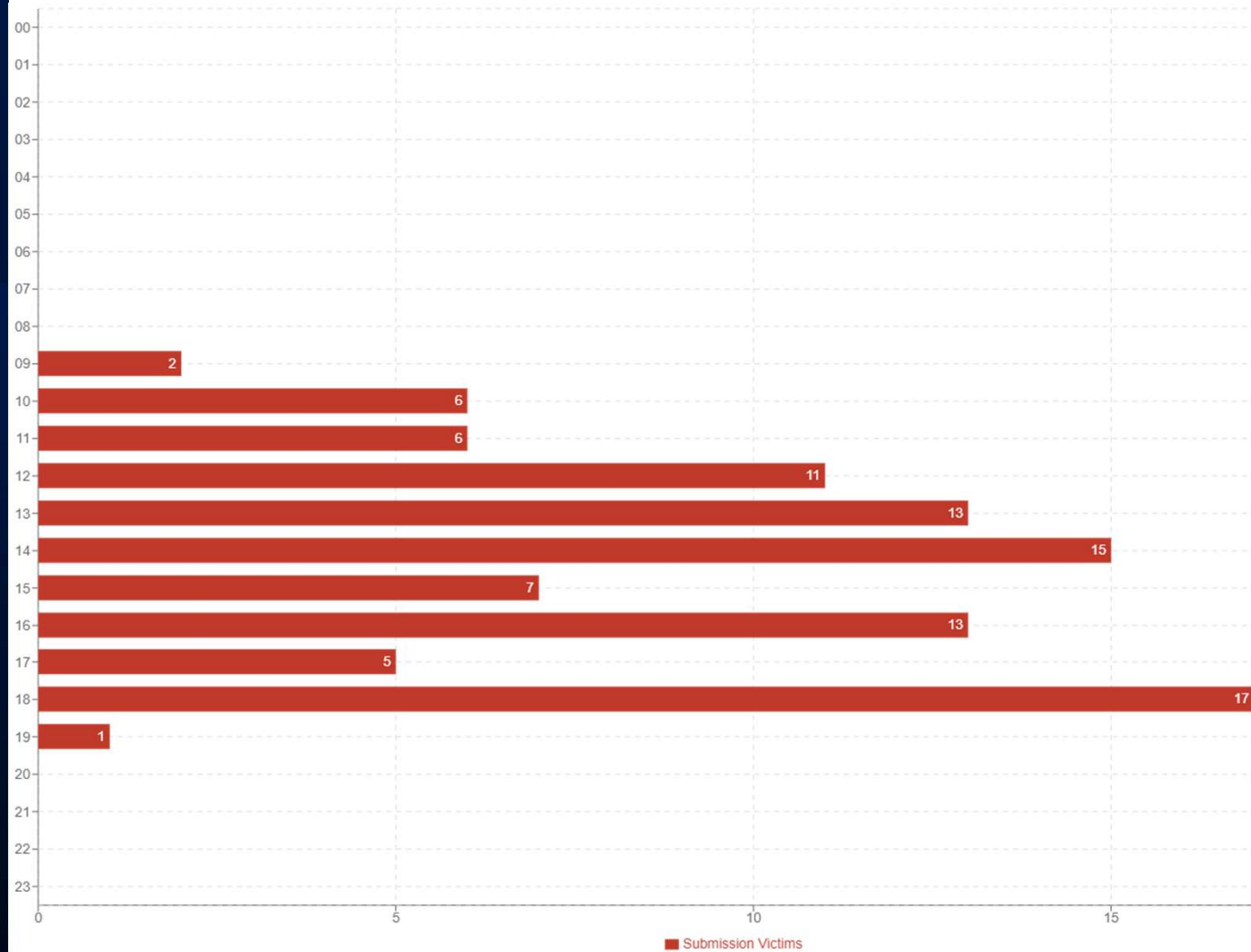
Document statistics for USLA

Shows us how we can protect our  
community in a more significant  
way

# End of Season Statistics

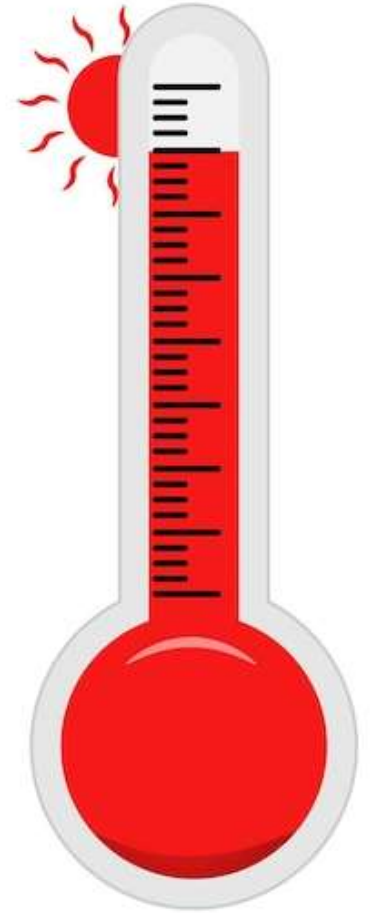
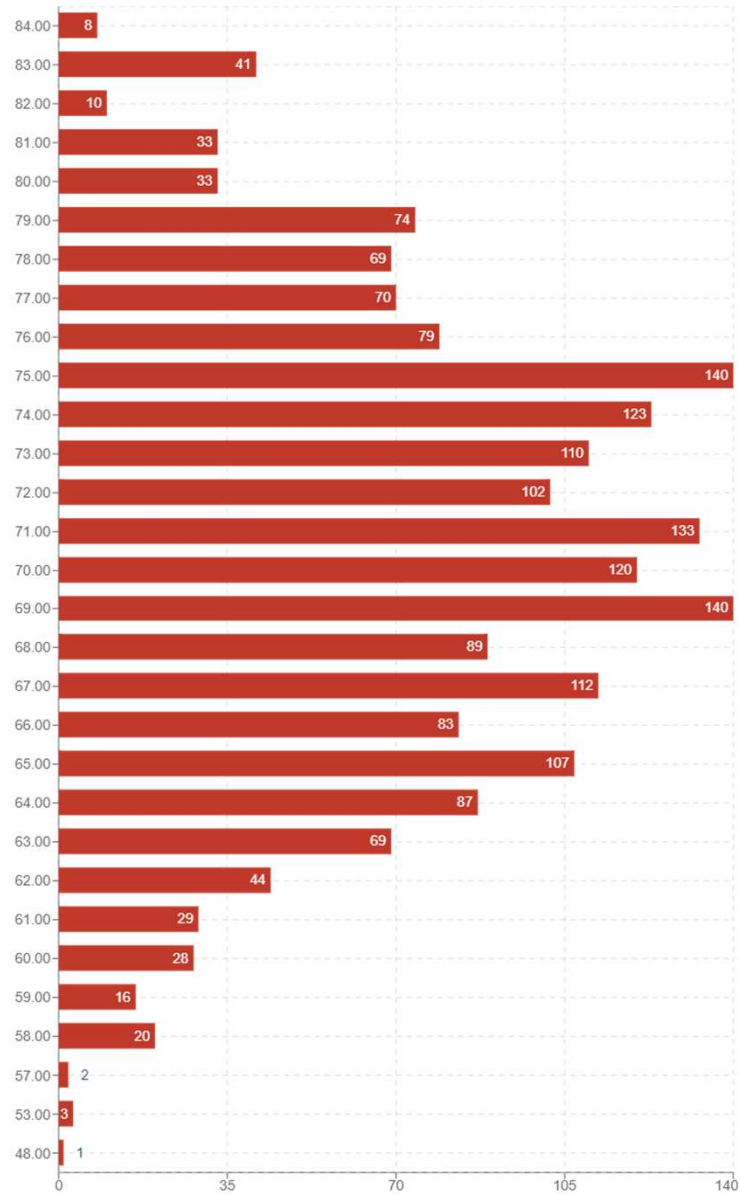


# Major Medical & Rescues X hour of the day





# Calls for Service X Air Temperature



# Tide Height X Rescues & Assists

80  
70  
60  
50  
40  
30  
20  
10  
0

0-1 ft

1-2ft

3-4 ft

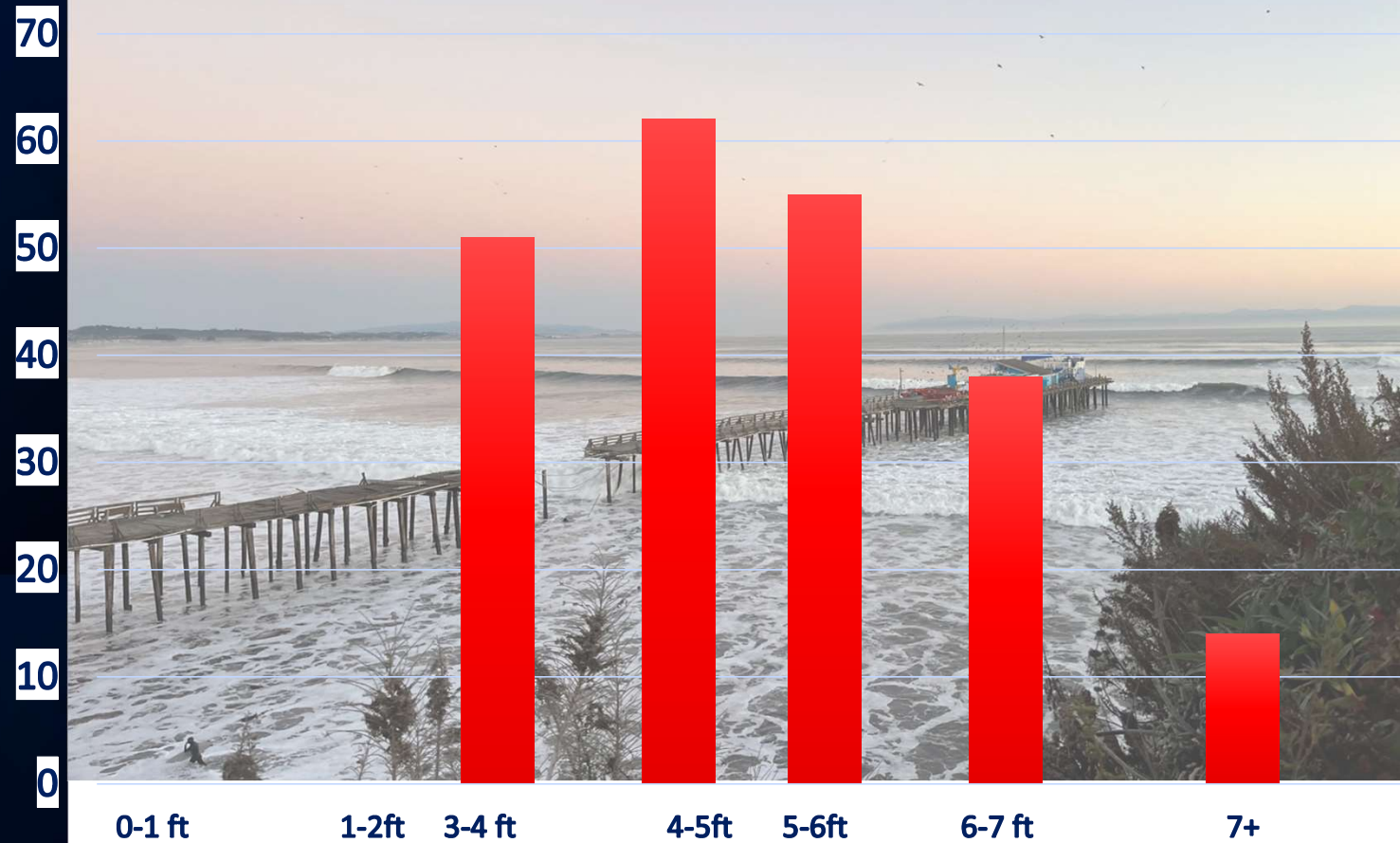
4-5ft

5-6ft

6-7 ft

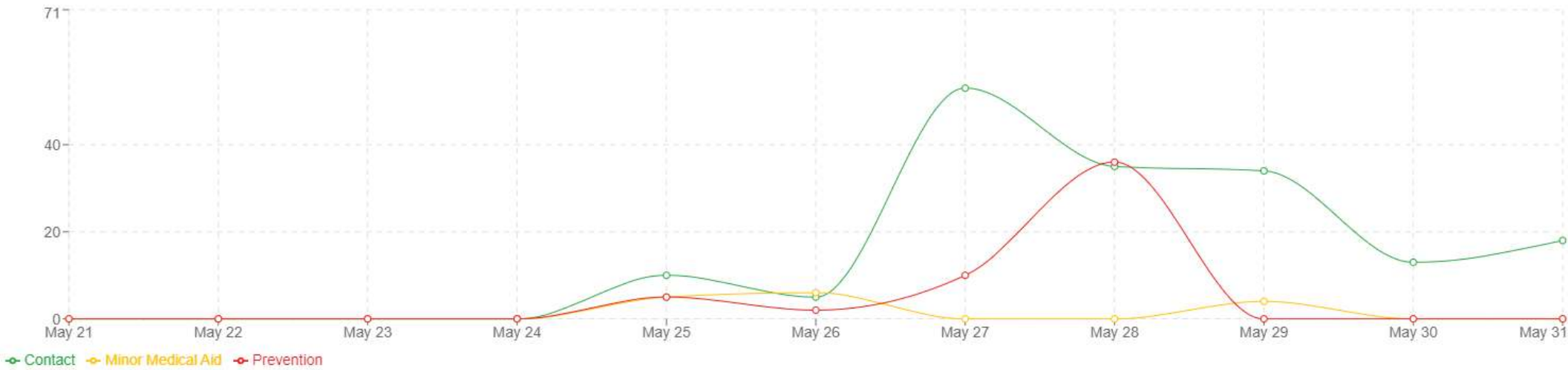


# Swell Height X Rescue & Assists



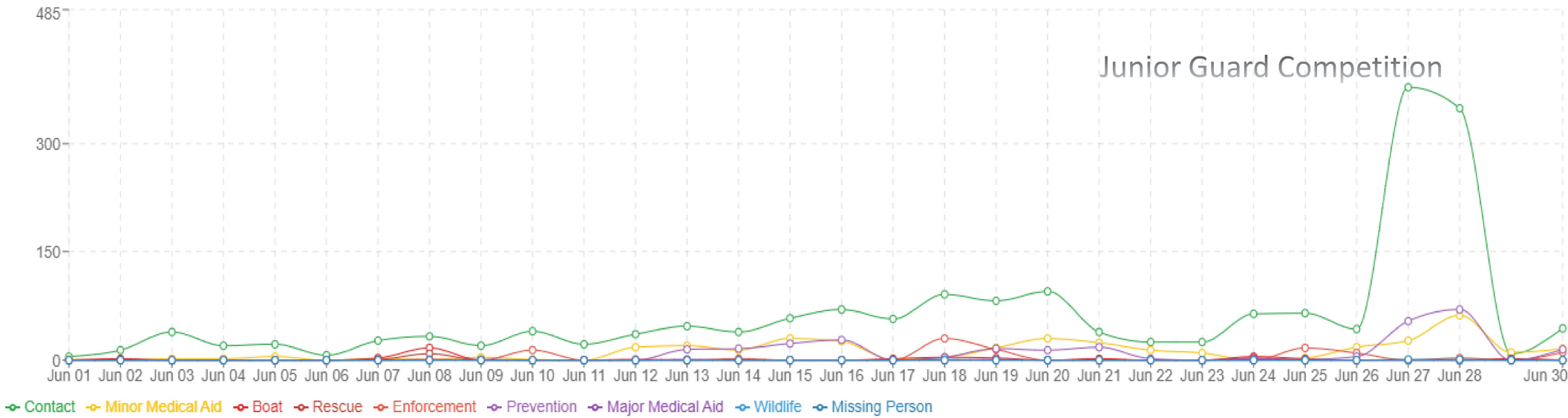


# May Graph Day to Day

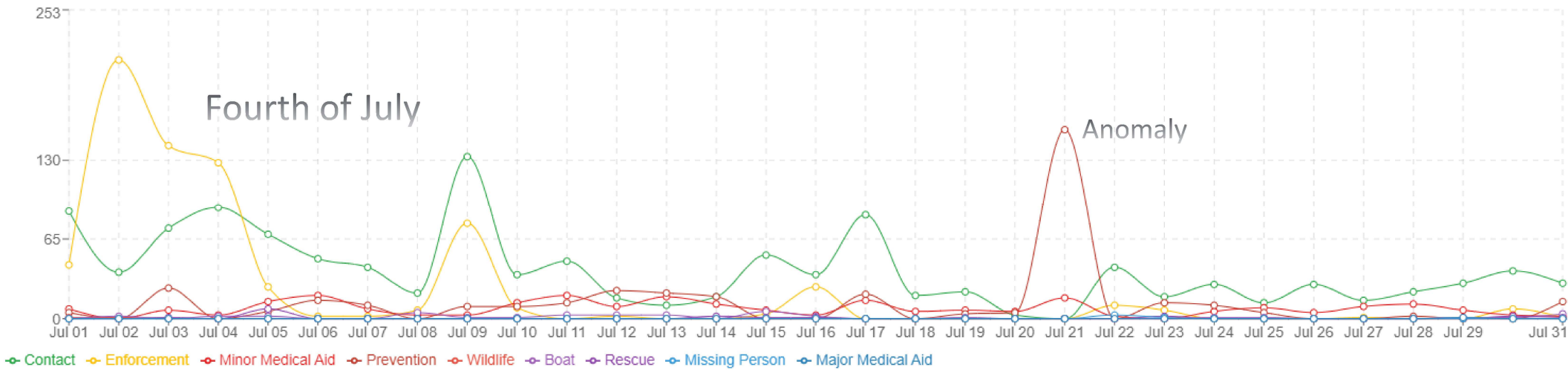




# June Graph Day to Day



# July Graph Day to Day





# September Graph Day to Day







# DISCUSSION

- Review of the Special Event Permit policies led to questions regarding billing for staff time
- Current practice to bill for staff time specifically dedicated to the event
- Lifeguard services should be included in event planning and billing when:
  - The event will create a dense crowd (also likely to include alcohol)
  - Includes a water element that requires specific LG staffing



# DISCUSSION

- Lifeguard Operation Staffing
  - One Lifeguard Lieutenant (LT)/Supervisor
  - Lifeguards (LG) two per tower (4 total)
- Minimum Staffing
  - 1 LT & 2 LG
  - Regardless if towers are available
- Dense crowds increases risk and demand more from LG
  - Tower 2 is necessary in this circumstance
- Callback: lifeguards that are not scheduled but available during an emergency or conditions



# FISCAL IMPACT

Total direct cost to operate  
Tower 1 & 2: \$910.24 per 8-  
hour day

	Direct Cost (8-hour day)	Overhead for Billing
<b>Tower 1</b>	\$557: City expense	0%
<b>Tower 2</b>	\$352: billed to event	30%
<b>Up to 4 LG</b>	\$22.06 per hour per person	30%

# RECOMMENDED ACTION

## Summer Season Operation

Recommended Option: Operate as in the past. Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, seven days a week, both towers.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> half of August staffing reduced to Tower 1 if conditions and crowds are favorable

Alternative: Operate from Memorial Day weekend to mid-August, seven days a week.

- Reduction of about 14 working days



# RECOMMENDED ACTION

## Fall Season Operation

Recommended Option: Operate Tower 1 for beach public safety on weekends

- Scope begins after the summer season until mid-October
- Events would be billed for Tower 2 staffing, water elements and callbacks related to event

Alternative: Operate Tower 1 & 2 for beach public safety on weekends

- Events would be billed for water elements and callbacks related to event

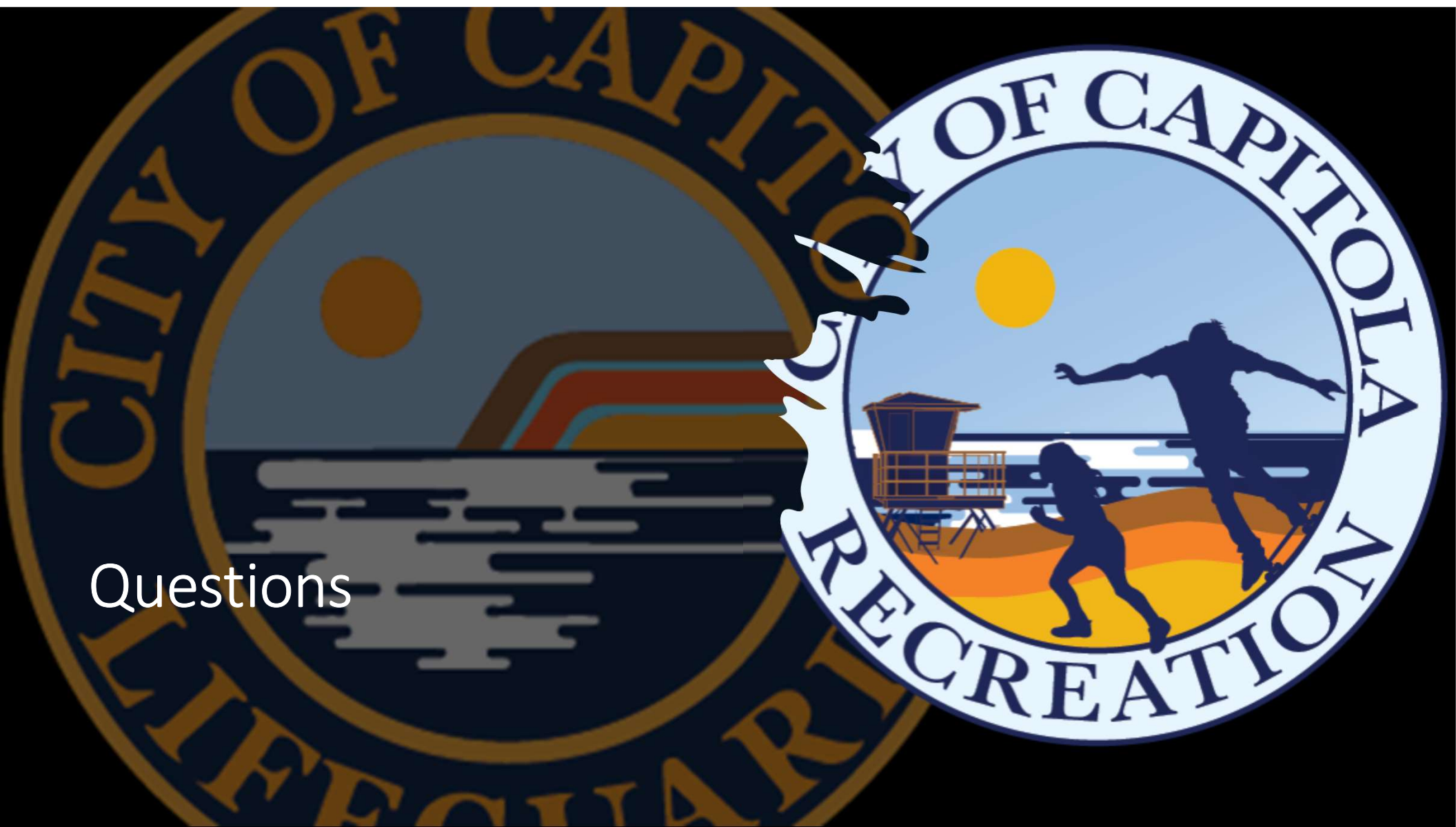


# RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve staff's recommended operational schedule for Summer and Fall Lifeguard Service.







Questions