



MEMORANDUM

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 5th, 2025

TO: City Council

FROM: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager

SUBJECT: Emergency Ordinance Limiting Vessel Size at Union Street Boat Launch

The Union Street Boat Launch has sustained recent damage due to repeated use by vessels that exceed the infrastructure's intended capacity. This has created hazardous conditions for the public, compromised the integrity of the launch, and hindered necessary remediation efforts. The launch was not designed to accommodate vessels longer than thirty-four (34) feet and continued use by such vessels poses a risk to public safety and municipal property. As City Council is aware, the administration is requesting up to \$110,000 in the upcoming FY2025-2026 budget, to repair the damages to the launch.

In response, staff have prepared an **Emergency Ordinance**, enacted under Section 8.7 of the City Charter, which places a restriction on vessel length at the launch. The ordinance takes effect on **May 6, 2025**, and prohibits launching or retrieving any vessel over thirty-four feet in length until the City Council determines that the facility is safe for larger vessel use.

Key Provisions of the Emergency Ordinance:

- Declares a public emergency due to launch damage and safety risks
- Limits vessel access to those **34 feet or shorter** in length
- Establishes a **\$500 civil infraction fine** per violation this does not preclude the city from seeking damages to the launch
- Authorizes signage, staffing, and physical barriers for enforcement
- Takes effect **immediately upon adoption** and appropriate posting

City staff recommends that Council adopt the proposed Emergency Ordinance to protect public safety and preserve City infrastructure while repairs and further evaluation are underway.

Sample Motion: "Approve the adoption of an Emergency Ordinance Declaring a Public Emergency and Placing a Restriction on Vessel Size at the Union Street Boat Launch,' effective immediately upon proper posting, and to take effect May 6, 2025.