

# **CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS, MICHIGAN**

## **ORDINANCE NO. 06-2025**

### **EMERGENCY ORDINANCE – TEMPORARY RESTRICTION ON VESSEL SIZE AT UNION STREET BOAT LAUNCH**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE** enacted pursuant to Section 8.7 of the City Charter of the City of the Village of Douglas, Michigan, declaring a public emergency and placing a temporary restriction on vessel size at the Union Street Boat Launch.

---

#### **THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS ORDAINS:**

##### **Section 1. Declaration of Emergency.**

In accordance with Section 8.7 of the City Charter, the City Council hereby declares that an emergency exists at the Union Street Boat Launch. Due to recent use by vessels exceeding the design capacity of the launch infrastructure, significant damage has occurred to the launch surface, surrounding areas, and subsurface conditions. This damage has created hazardous conditions that threaten the health and safety of launch users and the general public and has impeded ongoing remediation efforts. The Union Street Boat Launch was not constructed to accommodate vessels exceeding thirty-four (34) feet in length, and continued use by larger vessels would exacerbate these conditions. Immediate action is required to preserve public peace, safety, and property.

##### **Section 2. Temporary Size Limitation.**

Effective **May 6, 2025**, no vessel or boat exceeding thirty-four (34) feet in length shall be permitted to launch from or retrieve at the Union Street Boat Launch. This restriction shall remain in effect until such time as the City Council determines the launch has been sufficiently repaired and deemed safe for use by larger vessels.

##### **Section 3. Enforcement and Penalties.**

Violations of this ordinance shall constitute a **civil infraction punishable by a \$500.00 fine per offense**. Each instance of launching or attempting to launch a vessel over thirty-four (34) feet in length shall constitute a separate violation. In addition, this ordinance **does not preclude the City from seeking reimbursement for any repair costs** resulting from negligent or improper use of the launch that causes damage to City property. The City may also take any necessary steps to prevent launch access by noncompliant vessels, including signage, staffing, and physical barriers.

##### **Section 4. Posting and Effectiveness.**

This emergency ordinance shall take immediate effect upon adoption by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the City Council members present and proper posting in at least three (3) public places within the City. The City Clerk shall enter in the ordinance book a certificate stating the time and place of such publication by posting. This

ordinance shall also be published in accordance with Section 8.9 of the Charter, but such publication shall not be a requirement for effectiveness.

Clear and visible signage will be installed at the Union Street Boat Launch entrance and adjacent areas indicating the 34-foot vessel limit, enforcement of the restriction, and associated penalties. Signage will be posted in advance of the launch entrance, near the staging area, and directly at the water's edge to ensure full visibility for all users. Additional notices may be placed on the City's website, social media channels, and at nearby marinas or harbors as appropriate.

**Section 5. Severability.**

If any section, clause, or provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the ordinance.

---

**Introduced and Adopted by the City Council of the City of the Village of Douglas, Michigan, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**YEAS:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

**Certified:**

---

Laura Kasper, City Clerk  
City of the Village of Douglas, Michigan