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## COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY SHEET

**MEETING DATE:** March 9th, 2026

**TOPIC** Marine Watercraft Ordinance Amendment (Adoption of Michigan Marine Safety Act) – Introduction and First Reading

**BACKGROUND BRIEF:**

The waters of Lake Orion are one of the Village’s greatest assets. To ensure appropriate levels of marine patrol and public safety presence on the water, the Police Department relies in part on reserve officers and ordinance officers. Unlike certified police officers, reserve officers and ordinance officers are limited to enforcing local ordinances and do not have authority to enforce state or federal law.

Adopting the Michigan Marine Safety Act by reference as a Village ordinance will enhance the ability of all sworn personnel, including reserve and ordinance officers, to effectively address boater safety concerns and issues related to inland lake preservation. This amendment strengthens enforcement capabilities while maintaining consistency with state law.

In 2024, the Department increased marine patrol operations through the use of reserve officers, who collectively donated more than 112 hours of service on the water. The Department remains committed to continuously improving the Marine Division and maintaining a visible and proactive presence on Lake Orion.

Administration is requesting that the Village Council introduce and give First Reading to Ordinance No. 12.10, amending Chapter 98, Watercraft and Marine Safety. The proposed amendments were developed based on Village Council input at multiple meetings, including recent discussions and prior meetings in 2021. The draft ordinance has been reviewed by the Village Attorney. Proposed changes are highlighted in red for Council’s review.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no anticipated expenditure associated with this ordinance amendment. Adoption by reference may result in potential additional ordinance fine revenue to the Village.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

To introduce and give First Reading to Ordinance No. 12.10, an ordinance amending the Village of Lake Orion Code of Ordinances, Title IX – General Regulations, including Chapter 96 (Parks and Recreation) and Chapter 98 (Watercraft and Marine Safety), and to schedule the ordinance for Second Reading and consideration for adoption at the Village Council’s April 6, 2026 regular meeting; and to direct the Village Clerk to publish the required public notice.