



City of Mercer Island, Washington *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, On average, 650 people die each year in boating related accidents in the U.S., with the vast majority of those accidents caused by human error and poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors.

A significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets.

Safe boating begins with preparation. The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 83 percent of boating fatalities.

Through basic boating safety procedures – carrying lifesaving emergency distress and communications equipment, wearing life jackets, attending safe boating courses, participating in free boat safety checks, and staying sober when navigating – we can help ensure boaters on America’s coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season.

Mercer Island is surrounded by Lake Washington, and a large number of Mercer Island residents of all ages engage in recreational boating.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Mercer Island Marine Patrol, and other local boating safety groups are dedicated to the promotion of recreational boating safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim May 20 – 26, 2023 as

SAFE BOATING AND PADDLING WEEK

And encourage all Mercer Island residents to dedicate themselves to learning about and practicing safe boating, including wearing life jackets.

APPROVED, this 16th day of May 2023

Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 309

