



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6271
May 16, 2023
Consent Agenda**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6271: Safe Boating and Paddling Week, Proclamation No. 309.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve Proclamation No. 309 proclaiming May 20-26, 2023 as Safe Boating and Paddling Week.	

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Mayor Salim Nice Andrea Larson, City Clerk Chad Schumacher, Marine Patrol Sergeant
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Proclamation No. 309
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim May 20-26, 2023 as Safe Boating and Paddling Week.

- Every year in the United States there are over 4,000 fatal unintentional drownings, including 650 boating-related drownings.
- The Washington State death rate for drowning is 1.36 per 100,000 people. Accidental drowning is a leading cause of death in children.
- State law requires all vessels, including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards to have at least one properly fitted Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person onboard. All children, age 12 and younger must always wear one in a boat.
- The Marine Patrol Unit encourages all boaters to wear their life jackets every time they go out on the water - the best life jacket is the one that you will wear.

BACKGROUND

For over 100 million Americans, boating continues to be a popular recreational activity. From coast to coast, and everywhere in between, people are taking to the water and enjoying time together boating, sailing, paddling and fishing. During National Safe Boating Week, the U.S. Coast Guard and its federal, state, and local safe boating partners encourage all boaters to explore and enjoy America’s beautiful waters responsibly.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

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. 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 – help ensure boaters on America’s coastal, inland, and offshore waters stay safe throughout the season.

National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters so that they can have a safe and fun experience on the water throughout the year. This year for National Safe Boating Week, the Mercer Island Marine Patrol will be hosting two events to promote life jackets and required vessel safety equipment.

On May 20, 2023, the Marine Patrol Unit will be having a pop-up event under the gazebo at Mercerdale Park from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The community is encouraged to stop by to learn about the importance of life jackets and other practices for being safe on or near the water. The Marine Patrol will also have a variety of life jackets on site so parents can see what a proper fitting life jacket looks like on their child.

On June 10, 2023, the Marine Patrol Unit will be offering courtesy vessel safety inspections for members of the community at the Luther Burbank docks. From 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Marine Patrol Officers will be providing safety inspections for the required safety equipment on vessels. The community can bring their vessels to tie up to the Luther Burbank docks for these inspections. Mercer Island Parks and Recreation will also be on site to provide valuable information about recreating on the water.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Proclamation No. 309 proclaiming May 20-26, 2023 as Safe Boating and Paddling Week.