



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

**AB 6916  
May 5, 2026  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6916: National Boating Safety Week, Proclamation No. 385	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Approve Proclamation No. 385 proclaiming May 16-22, 2026 as National Boating Safety Week on Mercer Island.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council
<b>STAFF:</b>	Mayor Dave Rosenbaum Andrea Larson, City Clerk David Herzog, Marine Patrol Sergeant
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Proclamation No. 385
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda bill is to proclaim May 16-22, 2026 as Safe Boating and Paddling Week.

- Drowning is the leading cause of death in recreational boating accidents.
- The vast majority of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket.
- Most accidents are caused by human error, not mechanical failure.
- State law requires all vessels, including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards have at least one properly fitted, Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each person onboard. All children, aged 12 and younger must always wear a life jacket while 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.
- National Safe Boating Week focuses on reducing these risks through education and awareness, especially ahead of Memorial Day weekend when boating activity increases.

**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 like 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.

On May 3, 2026 the Marine Patrol Unit will visit Northwood Elementary as part of a Touch a Truck event. At this event, the Marine Patrol Unit will speak to children and community members about the importance of water safety including to never boat or swim alone, always have an adult present, plan ahead for inclement or hazardous weather, and always let someone know what your planned day looks like, so they can check in with you to ensure you are safe. The Marine Patrol Unit also participates in additional events on water safety throughout the year with both local partners and with partner jurisdictions.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Proclamation No. 385 proclaiming May 16-22, 2026 as National Boating Safety Week on Mercer Island.