MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Joseph Sanford, Fire Chief
Date: May 9, 2019
Subject: 2019 Safe Boating Week Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council authorizes the Mayor to proclaim May 18-24, 2019, as “Safe Boating Week” in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Washington State waters have been utilized for everything from generating economic opportunity to affording families opportunities for recreation. The importance of our lakes and rivers to our quality of life cannot be overstated. During Safe Boating Week it’s another opportunity to remind ourselves that protecting the future of our waterways rests on each of us as summer starts and we explore the waters of the region in boats.

But water can also be a hazard if we embark on it unprepared. Checking weather forecasts, filing a float plan with a family member or friend, conducting vessel safety checks and confirming the safety equipment and communications tools are in working order goes a long way in assuring a safe return home. Safety equipment includes personal floatation devices (PFD), fire extinguishers and weather radios. By always wearing PFD’s and never consuming alcohol while boating, boaters and passengers can further ensure their safety and well-being and help ensure a great day on the water does not end in tragedy.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, staff recommend that the Mayor proclaim May 18-24, 2019, as “Safe Boating Week” in the City of Kirkland.
A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming May 18 - 24, 2019 Safe Boating Week in Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, Kirkland’s proximity to Lake Washington and a variety of waterways brings residents and visitors from all over to enjoy watersports and boating; and

WHEREAS, operator inattention and inexperience, improper lookout, excessive speed and alcohol and drug use are the primary contributors in boating accidents; and

WHEREAS, an average of 650 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the U.S., the vast majority caused by human error or poor judgment; and

WHEREAS, in Washington State, according to the U.S. Coast Guard’s latest statistics, there were 109 recreational boating accidents counted in Washington resulting in 15 deaths and 35 injured with damages over $1.4 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland Fire Department’s Water Rescue Crews stand ready to respond and to work in conjunction with United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to promote and improve recreational boating safety by teaching boating safety and conducting vessel safety checks; and

WHEREAS, understanding safe boating practices, wearing a life vest and knowing the rules of the water are important in reducing risk and result in better boating precautions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim the week of May 18 through May 24, 2019 Safe Boating Week in Kirkland, and urge all residents and visitors to practice year-round safe boating practices, and to Boat Smart, Boat Safe and to wear life vests while enjoying our beautiful waterways.

Signed this 21st day of May, 2019

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Penny Sweet, Mayor