



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Fire Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Joe Sanford, Fire Chief
Tim Day, Deputy Fire Chief

Date: May 18, 2021

Subject: Safe Boating Week 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Kirkland City Council authorize the Mayor to proclaim May 22-28, 2021 as "Safe Boating Week" in the City of Kirkland.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Now in its 63rd year and sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, the intent of National Safe Boating Week is to bring attention to important life-saving practices for recreational boaters. As part of National Safe Boating Week, members of the Puget Sound Coast Guard Auxiliary have asked the city councils of cities on Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, and the Sammamish River to formally support safe boating practices.

The Auxiliary was established by Congress in 1939. Their mission is to promote and improve recreational boating safety, provide trained crew and facilities to augment the Coast Guard, and enhance safety and security of the nation's ports, waterways, and coastal regions. They offer classes throughout the Puget Sound region on boating safety, boating skills and seamanship, and navigation.

Safe boating begins with preparation. The Coast Guard estimates that human error accounts for most boating accidents and that life jackets could prevent nearly 86 percent of boating fatalities. Through basic 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 while operating a boat – we can help to ensure boaters stay safe throughout the season.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, staff recommend that the Mayor proclaim May 22-28, 2021 as "Safe Boating Week" in the City of Kirkland.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming May 22 – 28, 2021 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 677 people per year have died in boating-related accidents in the U.S. since 2000, 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 106 recreational boating accidents counted in Washington resulting in 27 deaths and 55 injured with damages over \$2.33 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland Fire Department stands ready to respond and to work in conjunction with United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division 2 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim the week of May 22 through May 28, 2021 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 18th day of May, 2021

Penny Sweet, Mayor