



STAFF REPORT ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

To: Mayor Gavin Buckley

From: Michael Mallinoff, City Manager

Date: 9/8/2023

Subject: O-25-23: Exception to Allow Public Kayak Rack Pilot Program

Purpose of legislation

The purpose of this legislation is to create a City of Annapolis pilot program to allow a public kayak rack in a street-end city park located on the City's waterfront; changing Title 15 of the City Code to allow the pilot project; and generally dealing with the City's waterfront parks.

Impact of legislation on operations

This program will require the Harbormaster's team to purchase and maintain a kayak rack. A rack(s) that accommodates 20 small paddle craft costs approximately \$4500. Program startup tasks will be completed by full time staff, and will probably take various employees 70 hours to create the program, advertise, collect contracts and fees, field phone calls and emails, assign rack spaces, and create a waiting list. Running the program, upkeep and enforcement of rules will be performed primarily by seasonal employees at a cost of approximately \$3000 for the first year. These expenses are not included in our current budget.

In order to **safely** share waterways with large commercial vessels, motorized recreational boats, and sailboats, the Harbormaster's team strongly recommends against siting the rack in a busy and competitive area of a City waterway such as the end of Prince George's Street. Importantly, large vessels are looking out and ahead, rather than down, as they navigate the harbor and can easily miss small watercraft and/or people in the water from capsized kayaks or paddle boards. Choppy waters and wake created by heavy boat traffic increases the chance of capsizing, especially for paddleboards.

From experience, we know that there will also be police calls for service to handle theft and vandalism. The Harbormaster's Office cannot quantify the staff time required from the Police Department to handle these calls.

Impact of legislation on staffing

The development and management of this pilot program is appropriately designated to the Harbormaster's office to ensure the orderly use of street ends and waterways. The Harbormaster's office is open 7 days a week from 7 am until 9 pm for 7 months of the year. Current staff provide an enormous number of services given our current staffing and budget. As noted above, this program will require additional seasonal employee hours. Seasonal employees require supervision; therefore, the program will stretch full time staff to their limit. If the pilot program was extended beyond the 20 small watercraft and to other locations, additional seasonal employee hours would need to be added which will require additional supervisory staff.

Prepared by: Beth Bellis, Harbormaster