

To: Parks and Receptions Committee of the
Board of Representatives

From: Captain Eric Knott, State Harbor Master, Stamford

Date: June 20th 2017

Subject: Proposed Harbor Fee Change

Committee Members,

Please excuse my not being able to be present at the meeting, but I am presently conducting tug safety surveys in the Federal Training Facility in Charleston Harbor SC.

Stamford Harbor is a large and open space very heavily used by both commercial and recreational boaters. The Harbor Commission which is tasked with overseeing the harbor maintenance, development and safety receives no funding from the city. The only income comes from the swinging moorings in the harbor which presently generate under \$14,000.00 US per year. This must be used to fund a consultant who is required to review development plans on which the Commission is required to comment. There are no funds left to allow safety or environmental initiatives that would maintain and improve the harbor.

The Harbor and Commission receive no funding and very little support from the City, all fees generated from the West Beach boat launch ramp and from the two-remaining city operated marinas are allocated elsewhere, not even, from the appearance and condition of the ramp and marinas, on maintenance of those facilities.

I feel strongly that our harbor is an under realized asset that can and will draw people of all interests along with businesses to our city. I disagree with, but acknowledge that those with little or no interest in the harbor may not feel they should contribute to its upkeep and development. I am of the strong opinion that those who use or gain direct benefit from the harbor and those applicants that require plan review by the commission should contribute to the harbor in proportion to their use. Such monies generated should be for use solely by the Harbor Commission for required costs and any and all tasks and projects to benefit the harbor. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should the monies ever revert to the 'general city accounts'.

I therefore support the application by the Harbor Commission to levy user fees and respectfully ask that the Committee also supports the application. I would be please to assist the Committee in any way that may be needed or deemed appropriate.

Respectfully

Captain Eric Knott

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