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May 15th, 2015

Mayor David Martin
Mr. Randall M. Skigen, President, Stamford Board of Representatives
Ms. Gloria G. DePina, Chair, Stamford BOR Public Safety and Health Committee
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Subject: Boating Safety in Stamford Harbor

Dear Mayor Martin, President Skigen, and Ms. DePina:

This letter is to express the Harbor Management Commission's great appreciation for the work of the Stamford Police Department's Marine Unit and bring to your attention an issue that we believe affects the capability of the Marine Unit to respond most effectively to emergency situations as they may arise in Stamford Harbor.

We are aware that the Marine Unit was recently relocated from its former waterfront office space on the east branch of Stamford Harbor to an office in the City's Vehicle Maintenance Department building at 100 Magee Avenue. As a consequence, this move now requires officers to drive approximately one mile to the police dock on the east branch. Previously they were just steps from their boat. Unfortunately this greatly increases the time required for officers to respond to emergency situations in the harbor.

A number of policies and recommendations concerning public health, safety, and welfare are established in the Stamford Harbor Management Plan, including policies in support of the waterfront facilities and services needed for effective emergency response. As called for in the Plan, the Harbor Management Commission, Stamford Police Department, and Harbor Master coordinate their actions and authorities to advance the Plan's goals for boating safety.

Despite our best efforts at coordination, rapid response to emergency situations remains a key component of any emergency response and rescue action. We are concerned that the current

location of the Marine Unit's base of operations will diminish emergency response time with an unacceptable impact on harbor safety.

We reviewed this matter during our meeting on April 21, 2015 at which time the Harbor Management Commission considered the Marine Unit's requirements for office space and access to the harbor. Waterfront sites were identified that may be evaluated as possible locations for placement of a mobile office trailer that would provide a temporary solution to this problem. Following discussion, the Harbor Management Commission approved a motion to bring this matter to your attention and offer our assistance in evaluating potential sites for temporary and long-term establishment of a waterfront base of operations for the Stamford Police Department's Marine Unit.

The Commission looks forward to discussing this matter with you in more detail. Please contact me at (315) 651-0070 or dortelli@stamfordct.gov if you have any questions or to arrange a convenient time to meet.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Damian Ortelli
Chairman, Stamford Harbor Management Commission

cc:

Mr. Frank Fedeli, Stamford Office of Operations
Chief Jonathan Fontneau, Stamford Police Department
Sergeant Robert Monck, Commanding Officer, SPD Marine Unit
Mr. Bob Strada, Chairman, Harbor Management Commission Safety Committee