

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM42.11	ACTION			Ward: All
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Establishing a Framework to Address Abandoned Boats - by Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager, and all relevant City Divisions, to develop a framework to quickly address abandoned boats at public boat launches, public docks, or attached to City of Toronto property.
2. City Council request the City Manager, and all relevant City Divisions, to establish a process for reporting abandoned vessels, and undertake an educational campaign to inform the public about the process for reporting abandoned vessels, including placing signage at City of Toronto boat launches.
3. City Council request the City Manager to assess the feasibility of entering into discussions with the relevant Federal authorities to explore opportunities for the City to intervene and expedite the removal of abandoned vessels from public boat launches, public docks, or attached to City of Toronto property.

Summary

In February 2021, an abandoned boat was left docked over the winter in Humber Bay Park West, and sank into Lake Ontario. In March 2022, another abandoned boat sank into the Lake at Bluffers Park. In both cases, the vessels were left abandoned at public boat launches managed by the City of Toronto.

There is some confusion among the public about who to report abandoned boats to, which may be hindering the response in removing these boats in a timely manner. Given the significant environmental concerns with sinking boats, it is imperative that we identify ways to help prevent the introduction of harmful pollutants into our Lake, and its impact to wildlife.

There is a process by which abandoned vessels are reported, and subsequently removed by the Canadian Coast Guard, however there are currently upwards of 2,000 vessels across Canada that are on the Canadian Coast Guard's list. The Coast Guard monitors these vessels for signs of damage and potential hazards, and prioritizes action based on a number of variables including pollution and risk to the public. Unfortunately, we have had two vessels sink, despite being

monitored. We cannot continue to wait until these abandoned boats sink, we need to help streamline these removals to get them out of the water faster. Currently, the City does not have jurisdiction to remove abandoned boats from the water, but we need to explore opportunities where the City may be of assistance in removing abandoned vessels before they sink.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM42.11