



**RE: Letter of Support
EX30.2 Toronto
Personal Watercraft
Safety Plan**

TO:

Toronto City Council

DATE:

April 17, 2026

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Council,

The Waterfront BIA is writing to express our support for Item EX30.2 and the City's proposed Personal Watercraft Safety Plan, while also highlighting a jurisdictionally similar but functionally separate issue in Toronto's Inner Harbour caused by Bareboat Charter or "Party Boat" operators picking up passengers along park and City-owned dock walls without the necessary City permits, insurance, or vessel licensing.

We support Item EX30.2 because it advances a coordinated and practical approach to waterfront safety through clearer rules, stronger education, and better enforcement across multiple jurisdictions. Much like unpermitted PWC rentals, these illegal charter operators are exploiting public park infrastructure as commercial boarding zones, bypassing the safety and insurance requirements for operating on City property. This creates risk and liability for the City, unsafe park conditions, and unfairly undercuts the legal commercial passenger vessel operators who are required to maintain licensed mooring positions, commercial insurance, certified crew, Transport Canada compliance, inspections, and proper safety equipment.


We respectfully ask Council to ensure that the same enforcement lens applied to illegal PWC rentals is also extended to these illegal charter operations, particularly where they use parkland and dock walls for passenger pick-up and drop-off without authorization.


Finally, as Council considers future waterfront implementation, we encourage the City to clearly distinguish between problematic PWC activity and the broader need for lawful, well-managed commercial marine access in the Inner Harbour. The Waterfront BIA strongly supports additional appropriate dock and pick-up opportunities for legal commercial vessels, separate from PWCs, in locations such as the Water's Edge Promenade at East Bayfront and other suitable city-owned waterfront sites. More legal, well-managed access points will strengthen Toronto's marine economy, improve visitor experience, and reduce pressure for operators to use informal or unauthorized locations.


Sincerely,


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