

NB-38

May 24, 2022

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL City of Long Beach California

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to Hearing Officer the special event application denial appeal by Ross Wallach (applicant) of the Southern California Speedboat Club for the 2022 Long Beach Sprint Nationals event requested to be held at Marine Stadium, 5255 Paoli Way, Long Beach CA 90803. (District 3)

DISCUSSION

On April 5, 2022, pursuant Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC), Section 5.60.060, the Office of the City Manager denied the special event application submitted to the Office of Special Events and Filming on August 25, 2021, due to the determination that the proposed event would present an unreasonable danger to the health, safety, and general welfare of racing participants and/or spectators in its current configuration and specified safety requirements. Findings as communicated previously to both the applicant and the Mayor and City Council can be found in Attachment A (Sprint Nationals Race, Marine Stadium – Results of Investigation).

On April 14, 2022, the applicant filed an appeal for the special event application denial (Attachment B).

Pursuant to LBMC Section 5.60.120, an applicant for a special event permit whose application for such permit has been denied by the City Manager may appeal to the City Council. Whenever it is provided that a hearing shall be heard by the City Council, the City Council may, in its discretion, conduct the hearing itself or refer it to a hearing officer, in accordance with LBMC 2.93.050(A). If the City Council refers the matter to a hearing officer, then City staff and the hearing officer will set the hearing date for not less than twenty (20) days nor more than sixty (60) days after the City Council referral. Such hearing may for good cause be continued by the order of the City Council. Further, Notice of the Hearing shall be sent to the interested parties at least twenty (20) days before the hearing, in accordance with LBMC 2.93.050(8)(1). In practice, the City Council decision to refer the matter to a hearing officer means that the hearing would occur anytime from June 13, 2022 through July 29, 2022.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Arturo D. Sanchez on May 17, 2022 and by Budget Operations and Development Officer Rhutu Amin Gharib on May 17, 2022.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL May 24, 2022 Page 2 of 2

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

If referred, upon selection of a hearing officer, the matter will be heard not less than twenty (20) days nor more than sixty (60) days thereafter.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal or local job impact associated with this item. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with City Council priorities.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS B. MODICA CITY MANAGER

ATTACHMENT A – Memorandum: Sprint Nationals Race, Marine Stadium – Results of Investigation ATTACHMENT B – Denial Appeal Letter



Memorandum

April 11, 2022 Date:

Thomas B. Modica, City Manager 7-44-To:

Tasha Day, Manager of Special Events and Filming Robbie Grego, Deputy Chief Long Beach Fire From:

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Sprint Nationals Race, Marine Stadium - Results of Investigation

To determine if the Sprint Nationals Boat Racing Event is safe to be held at the Marine Stadium venue, an investigation team comprised of staff from multiple City of Long Beach (City) departments, including the Fire and Police Departments; Marine Safety; Risk Management/City Safety Office; and Special Events was assembled to review the findings of the Sprint Nationals Boat Racing Event. This memorandum provides a summary of those findings.

During the 2021 event, one race boat driver was killed during the event. Video and other evidence from the investigation provided confirmation that the speed of the vessels and the size of the venue contributed to the cause of the accident. The racing vessels involved in the fatal accident were traveling at over 110 mph. The Vessel Accident Report states that the "combination of the speed, proximity of the vessels, the unstable water environment, and limited steerage ability made the accident difficult to avoid in that particular moment in time." Video footage shows the wake created by the vessels hitting against the rocks and being pushed back into the vessels' path of travel. These wakes and high rate of speed caused one of the boat racers to lose control of their vessel, which collided with another boat and overturned. The driver of the overturned vessel was ejected and died from his injuries. Based on first-hand public safety personnel accounts and video, the unattended vessel continued at a high rate of speed, only overturning after hitting a wake. Had the vessel not overturned, it may have continued toward the spectating public with no physical barrier preventing impact.

A similar accident occurred during the Sprint Nationals Boat Racing event in 2018, also held in Marine Stadium, which also resulted in the death of one of the boat racers. There were similar patterns to the cause of the 2021 accident, including the rate of speed the vessels were traveling, the wakes created by the boats, and the small size of the stadium venue. Again, according to first-hand public safety personnel accounts, the unattended vessel continued travelling at a high rate of speed and penetrated the south border safety barrier comprised of manned vessels. At the time of the accident, the driver was immediately killed, however, the accelerator remained depressed. Had rescue teams not successfully boarded and stopped the vessel, it would have continued toward the swimming area of Mother's Beach, posing a danger to the public.

Based on the information above and your current application submitted to the Office of Special Events and Filming on August 25, 2021, the investigation team concluded that the Sprint Sprint Nationals Race, Marine Stadium April 11, 2022 Page 2

Nationals Boat Racing Event is unsafe and poses a danger to both racing participants and spectators in its current configuration and specified safety requirements.

Attached you will find a copy of the current accident investigation report. Should you have any questions please reach out to Special Events Manager Tasha Day at tasha.day@longbeach.gov at (562) 570-5313 or Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Robbie Grego at robbie.grego@longbeach.gov at (562) 570-2579.

Attachments: A - Long Beach Fire Department Report (redacted)

B - Long Beach Police Department Report (redacted)

C - Sprint National Response Letter

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY

Douglas P. Haubert, City Prosecutor

Laura L. Doud, CITY AUDITOR

LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER

MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK

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DIV. OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS PAGE

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☐ Narrative Continuation Vessel Accident Report	08/08/2021	1230	DR#21-37137	BEAT
☐ Supplemental Vessel Accident Report	Marine Stadium			
■ other: Investigation Narrative	Long Reach	Los Angeles	·	AGENCY

Facts:

At approximately 1230 on Sunday, August 8, 2021, a vessel accident occurred between 2 vessels involved in a sanctioned racing event in Marine Stadium, Long Beach. The 2 vessels collided, causing one vessel to roll and capsize, ejecting the driver who sustained fatal injuries.

This report is continued for further information.

Scene:

The accident occurred at Marine Stadium, a narrow strip of waterway that is often used for special events such as boat racing. The accident occurred during a boat race in which 3 vessels were racing around an oval course in a counter-clockwise direction. The accident occurred shorty after the first turn of the race was completed, along a straight-away.

Vessels:

Vessel #1, an 18' power vessel of unknown make/model. Fiberglass construction, with open cockpit. The vessel sustained severe hull damage as a result of the collision, in which much of the starboard side of the hull had been delaminated and torn off. There was also some minor damage sustained at the stern of the vessel. See pictures for further details. Vessel number #1 was inspected for any mechanical anomalies, and all systems inspected (steering fin, cavitation plate, steering column, engine attachment points) appeared to be normal. Vessel #1 was impounded for investigation, and then released to the owner.

Vessel #2, an 18' power vessel of unknown make/model, fiberglass construction with encapsulated cockpit. This vessel sustained moderate damage to the port quarter where vessel #1 made contact. See pictures for further details. Vessel #2 was inspected for any mechanical anomalies, and all systems inspected (steering fin, cavitation plate, steering column, engine attachment points) appeared to be normal, with the exception of the steering column. There appeared to be approximately 1-2 degrees of relative motion (play) between the steering wheel and the rudder. Vessel #2 was impounded for investigation, and then released to the owner.

The damage on both vessels appears consistent with the video evidence. Vessel #1 appeared to impact vessel #2 on the port quarter, causing damage to Vessel #2 in that area, and the damage present on Vessel #2 appears consistent with what was observed in the video evidence. The damage on Vessel #1 appears consistent with what was observed in the video, in that the starboard bow dipped into the water at speed causing severe hull damage and fiberglass delamination.

Injuries:

the victim, sustained fatal injuries as a result of the accident. The victim was ejected from vessel at approximately 110 MPH, landing on his back, with his head pointed in the direction of travel. The victims head made contact with the water, causing sufficient torque in that area of the body to cause the victim to somersault 3 times in the air. The victim was rescued by a private rescue team provided by the special event. See statement from regarding victim's condition upon rescue. Care of the victim was transferred to Long Beach Fire Department, Rescue

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PREPARED BY (NAME RANK)	DATE	ID NUMBER	REVIEWED BY (NAME, RANK)	DATE	IDNUMBER
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☐ Narrative Continuation Vessel Accident Report	08/08/2021	DR#21-37137		
	LOCATION			BEAT
☐ Supplemental Vessel Accident Report	Marine Stadium			
nother: Investigation Narrative	CITY	COUNTY		AGENCY
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2Bf0Xlln61z1O8GUdlxysPfGCrrKDZv3AHQGlfBy2VgTpXfjJmenayiGTtrrC1Ps*3D&version=1 JSUIJSUI!!MKV5s95d0OKnVA!

8hGv9Xm46GFytcDoTkblbx3nHQL9BP163KK6x4leB4aZptPieSGUikKJ9lCnMSlYaJM8BcboYFM\$1 This link is no longer valid. All pictures and videos can be accessed at evidence.com, referencing DR# 21-37137

[Vessel 2] hit the other boat [Vessel 1]. [Vessel 1] was traveling in a NW direction, It looked like on the inside of the course. [Vessel 2] porpoised and landed on top of [Vessel 1] starboard bow, causing [Vessel 1] to roll, ejecting the driver. It appeared that the boat engine contacted the driver of the vessel while in the air.

Opinions And Conclusions:

After reviewing the video of the incident and taking into consideration the witness statements. I have made the following observations:

- 1. A sanctioned boating race occurred between Vessel #1, Vessel #2, and another vessel that was not involved in the incident, in the Marine Stadium special use area.
- 2. After the start of the race, Vessel #1 made it through the first turn ahead of Vessel #2.
- 3. Vessel #1 proceeded down the straightaway with a course that was intersecting the course of Vessel #2.
- 4. Vessel #2 began to pass Vessel #1, on the starboard side of Vessel #1.
- 5. Vessels #1 and #2 hit a patch of unstable water, caused by the wakes from the previous pass
- along the course. 6. Vessel #2 eases off the throttle, as heard on the video. 7. The unstable water seemed to impact vessel #1 in a manner that would make it difficult to steer away from vessel #2, given the speed and close proximity of the vessels.
- 8. The vessels collided causing Vessel #1 to capsize, ejecting the driver, which caused fatal injuries.

The close proximity of the vessels, racing at high speed, and the unstable water caused by the wake from the first pass traveling across the course, setup an unstable water environment that would have affected the steerage of both vessels at the time of the collision. It is my opinion that the combination of the speed, the proximity of the vessels, the unstable water environment, and limit steerage ability made the accident difficult to avoid at that particular moment in time.

PREPARED BY (NAME RANK)	DATE			ID NUMBER	REVIEWED BY (NAME, RANK)	DATE	ID NUMBER
Patrick Morrison	8	9	2021	71100			

Page 7 of 111

21-37137

Supplement No ORIG

LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT



400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date
08/08/2021
Primary Offense
DEADBODY
Officer
LEE, KRISTOPHER A

Phone **562 570-7381 RECORDS** Fax

562 570-7080 FAX

Administrat	tive Info	ormatic	on							
Agency				DR No	5	Supplement	t No	Reported Date	Rep	orted Time
LONG BEACH	POLICE I	DEPARTM	ENT	21-37137		ORIG	;	08/08/202	1 0	8:06
CAD Call No	Rpt Typ			Primary Offense						
212200465	DEAD	BODY RE	EPORT	DEAD BODY						
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PAOLI N	WΥ									LONG BEACH
ZIP Code	Rep Dist	Area	Beat	From Date	Fro	m Time	To D	ate	To Time	
90803	582	02	10	08/08/2021	08	3:00	08	/08/2021	13:0	5
Officer			1		Assign	nment			Entered	l by
10951/LEE,K	RISTOPHI	ER A			PA!	ROL/	EAS	T/CFS/W2	109	51
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PATROL/EAST	/CFS/W2	Succ	essful	Successf	ul	7108	}			
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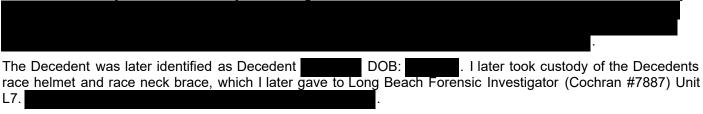
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Туре		ID No			OLS				
Operator L	icense								
Phone Type Phone N	No		Date						
Other			08	3/08/2021					
Narrative									
On 8/8/21 at a	nnroxima	tely 1253 k	nours I (Of	fficer K Lee #	10951) as	sisted Init	2B10 (Office	r N Pim	entel #11525)

On 8/8/21 at approximately 1253 hours, I (Officer K. Lee #10951) assisted Unit 2B10 (Officer N. Pimentel #11525) who was dispatched to Marine Stadium located at E Paoli Way regarding a special accident involving a boat accident (Call #465).

The call was later determined to be a fatal special accident involving a boat.

While en route, dispatched communicated Long Beach Fire Rescue 10 was transporting an unknown male subject to St. Mary's Medical Center. The unknown subject was just involved in a boat accident during the Sprint Nationals. The unknown subject was ejected from his boat which was traveling approximately 100 to 130 miles per hour.

I arrived at St Mary's Medical Center just as Long Beach Fire Rescue 10 arrived with the unknown male subject.



I contacted the Los Angeles County Coroners Investigators Office and spoke to a representative (later identified as Sickles #496712) who provided me with Case # 2021-09121.

I was unable to locate or contact a next of kin.

Unit 2S28 (Sergeant W. Kift #5124) responded.

Report Officer	Printed At	
10951/LEE, KRISTOPHER A	03/30/2022 14:13	Page 2 of 2



400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date
08/08/2021
Primary Offense
DEADBODY
Officer
BERGLUND, JOHN ERIC

Phone **562 570-738**

562 570-7381 RECORDS

Fax

562 570-7080 FAX

Administr	ative Info	rmatic	n									
Agency			DR		Sı	ipplement N				Reported Time		
LONG BEACH		EPARTM	ENT		L-37137		0001	08/08/2	021	14	:51	
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Narrative												
On 8/8/2021 a	it approximat	ely 1328	hours,	my į	oartner (Of	c J. V	Villiams	#11109) an	d I (O	fc J.	Berglun	id #11339)
were working								aoli Way to				
#5124) with a								Ţ			`	· ·
,	•		`	,								
Upon arrival, I	was tasked	with coll	ecting v	ideo	evidence	and a	witness	s statement.				
I spoke to	(_ater ide	entified a	as W	itness #1)	and h	ie state	d the following	ng:			
On 8/8/2021,				n at				rd the collision				of the
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the incident.	provid	ea me v	vitri the	IOOIS	ige of the l	nciael	nt and	l uploaded it	IIIIO E	zvidel	nce.	

Report Officer	Printed At	
11339/BERGLUND, JOHN ERIC	03/30/2022 14:13	Page 1 of 1



400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date
08/08/2021
Primary Offense
DEADBODY
Officer

562 570-7381 RECORDS

562 570-7080 FAX

WILLIAMS, JESSICA SIMON

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11109/WILLI	AMS, JESSI	CA SI	MONE			PATI	ROL/I	EAST	CFS/W2		
2nd Officer	·	Assignm	ent		L	Enter	ed by	Ī	Assignment		
BERGLUND, JC	HN ERIC	PATE	ROL/NO	RTH/	CFS/W3	111	109		PATROL/	EAST/	CFS/W3
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On 08/08/2021 at approximately 1328 hours, my partner (Officer J. Berglund #11339) and I (Officer J. Williams #11109) were working uniformed patrol as Unit 278B when we responded to Marine Patrol Stadium, located at Paoli Way, regarding a special accident report (call #465).

For Further on the main report, Refer to DR #21-37137.

Upon arrival I was tasked with contacting Witness and he told me the following:

was watching the boat race from the west shore of the stadium inside of the beer garden area. During the race he stated he observed an enclosed capsule boat (B2) racing northbound the stadium ahead of another boat (B1). B1 was an open cockpit boat.

B1 was racing on slighting behind B2 when B1 suddenly made contact with the rear left side of B2's boat. B1 began to barrel roll towards the right side of the boat and during the time of the rolling, the driver of the B1 was ejected from the boat. The driver of the boat went airborne and summersaulted on the surface of the water for approximately 300 feet.

stated the driver was floating face on the water for approximately 30 seconds prior to the rescue boats reaching him.

Report Officer	Printed At	
11109/WILLIAMS, JESSICA SIMONE	03/30/2022 14:13	Page 1 of 2

Narrative

also provided me with video footage of the incident. For further, see video footage.



Narrative

11525/PIMENTEL, NOAH CHRISTOPHER

Report Officer

400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date 08/08/2021 Primary Offense DEADBODY Officer

PIMENTEL, NOAH CHRISTOP

Page 1 of 2

562 570-7381 RECORDS

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Administra	ative Info	rmatio	on						
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11525/PIME	NTEL, NOAH			t		EAST/CFS/	₩2	11525	
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On 8/8/21 at approximately 1245 hours, I (Officer N. Pimentel #11525) I assisted Unit SE50 (J. Vigil #8930)

Printed At

03/30/2022 14:13

Narrative
regarding a special accident involving two boats at Marine Stadium Paoli Way. This accident occurred during the Sprint Nationals (Call #465).
Upon arrival, I observed Long Beach Fire Department Engine #8 on scene. I later approached the launch ramp at the marina where both of the boats were docked.
I contacted the driver of the second boat involved and he told me the following:
and were proceeding straight down the straight away at the Marina. Both him and the second racer) were driving next to each other. As they continued down the straight away at approximately 100mph, boat hit a patch of wake from their previous turn and pushed his boat to the left. As he attempted to counter steer to his right, boat collided with proceeded straight and boat flipped over.
I contacted the driver from the rescue boat (identified as
was stationed at the second turn along the Marina. Both boats began to accelerate down the straight away, as they were moving forward, one of the boats hit a patch of wake. After the boat hit the wake patch both boats collided. observed one of the drivers ejected from the boat (later identified as).
Immediately after the collision and his crew approached the crash scene and observed down in the water with a 15 foot pool of blood around him. The crew members placed on a backboard. Stated drove the rescue boat to Mother Beach Pier where Long Beach Fire Department took over.
I collected the events video from . He uploaded the video to the link at it was successfully uploaded.
For further regarding incident see Long Beach Firefighters report.

21-37137

LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT



400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date
08/08/2021
Primary Offense
IMPVEH
Officer
FAXON, MICHAEL A

Phone

562 570-7381 RECORDS

Fax

562 570-7080 FAX

-		56	2 570-	7080) FAX								
Administra	ative Info	rmati	on										
Agency				DR	No		Su	pplemen	t No	Reported Da	te	Repo	orted Time
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10983	ADMIN/RE	CORDS	/STAFF	/	Succ	cess	ful	Suc	cce	ssful	109	983	
Approval Date	Appro	oval Time											
08/08/2021	18	:04:30)										
Vehicle													
Involvement	Туре	Make					Mo	del		Style			Color
Impounded	Trailer	Unli	sted t	rail	Ler m	ake	T	rail	.er	Boat	Tra	iler	Black
Storage													
POLICE DEP	T TOW												
Reason Towed			h Was Towed				Invoice						
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400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date 08/08/2021 Primary Offense **IMPVEH** Officer

POCSAI-BLAKE, JUDIT

Phone

562 570-7381 RECORDS

Fax 562 570-7080 FAX

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Administra	ative Info	rmati	on									
Agency				DR No		Su	pplement	No	Reported Date		Repo	rted Time
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MARY												
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400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date 08/08/2021 Primary Offense STRBOAT Officer FAXON, MICHAEL A

Phone

562 570-7381 RECORDS

Fax 562 570-7080 FAX

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Administra	ative Info	rmati	on											
Agency					DR No		S	upplemen	t No	Reported Dat	е	Repo	rted Time)
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11166/FAXO	N, MICHAEL	A					SUE	PORT	/PC	ORT/MAR	INE	PATR	OL/W	ATCH 2
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10983	ADMIN/RE	CORDS	/STA	AFF/	Su	ccess	ful	Suc	cce	ssful	109	83		
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Vessel														
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400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date 08/08/2021
Primary Offense STRBOAT
Officer

POCSAI-BLAKE, JUDIT

Phone **562 570-7381 RECORDS**

Fax

562 570-7080 FAX

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400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date
08/11/2021
Primary Offense
DEADBODY
Officer

Phone | 562 570-7381 RECORDS | Fax | 562 570-7080 FAX

HUMPHREYS, MICHAEL KEIT

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Report Officer	Printed At	
11220/HUMPHREYS, MICHAEL KEITH	03/30/2022 14:14	Page 1 of 1



400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date
03/11/2022
Primary Offense
DEADBODY
Officer
OTHER

Phone
562 570-7381 RECORDS
Fax
562 570-7080 FAX

Administrat	ive Info	rmatio	n									
Agency LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT					DR No 21-37137		Supplement No Reported Da 0009 03/11				orted Time 5:11	
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400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802

562 570-7381 RECORDS

Reported Date
03/11/2022
Primary Offense
FATAL
Officer

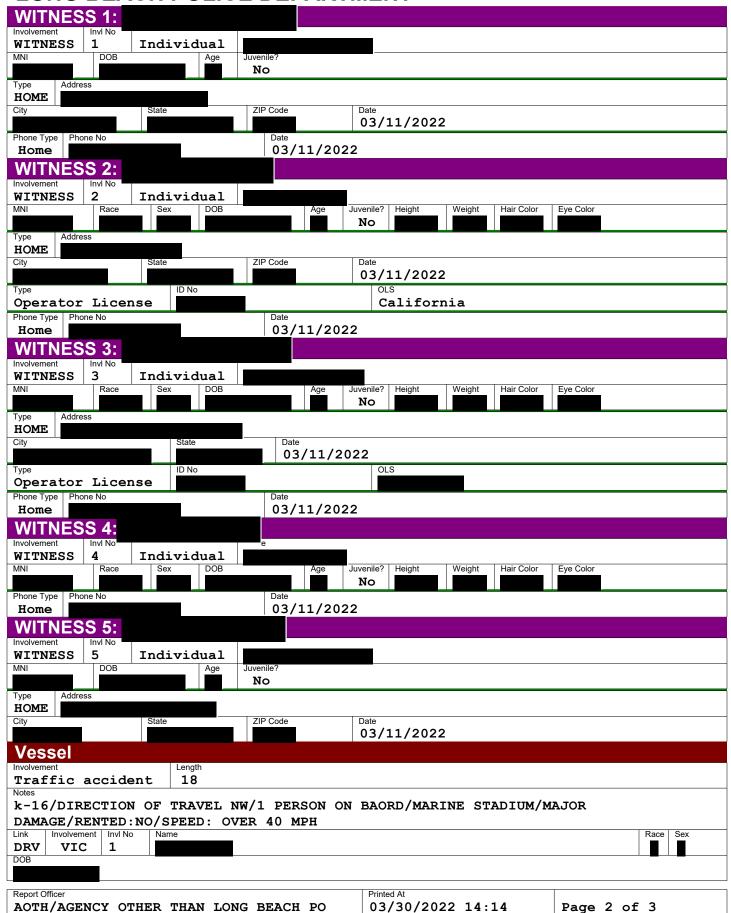
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Phone **562** Fax

562 570-7080 FAX

Administrative Information Supplement No Reported Date Reported Time LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT 21-37137 0010 03/11/2022 16:11 CAD Call No Primary Offense 212200465 TRAFFIC ACCIDENT FATAL COLLISION Location LONG BEACH PAOLI WY ZIP Code Rep Dist From Date From Time To Date To Time Area Beat 90803 582 02 10 08/08/2021 12:30 08/08/2021 12:30 Officer Assignment AOTH/AGENCY OTHER THAN LONG BEACH POLICE INVEST/FSSD/EVID CONTROL/PROPERTY Assignment RMS Transfer Approving Officer ADMIN/RECORDS/TRANSCRIPT/W2 8543 Pending 11297 Approval Date Approval Time 03/28/2022 11:43:52 Miscellaneous Comments 2 Miscellaneous Comments 1 Location: Marine Stadium Investigated by: Patrick Morrison 562-570-1360 # Offenses Offense Description Complaint Type 1 FATAL FATAL COLLISION Involvement | Invl No Name Race Sex VIC VIC 1 DOB **DRIVER 1:** Name Involvement DRIVER 1 Individual Eye Color .luvenile? Heiaht Weight Hair Color MNI Race Sex No Address HOME Date 03/11/2022 Phone No Phone Type Home 03/11/2022 Miscellaneous Comments 1 actually operator of boat (drv) VICTIM 1: Involvement Name Invl N VICTIM 1 Individual DOB MNI Race Juvenile? Height Weight No Address HOME City ZIP Code Date 03/11/2022 ID No OLS Operator License Phone Type | Phone No Date Home 03/11/2022 Miscellaneous Comments 1 Miscellaneous Comments 2

Report Officer	Printed At	
AOTH/AGENCY OTHER THAN LONG BEACH PO	03/30/2022 14:14	Page 1 of 3



Vessel			
Involvement	Length		
Traffic accident	18		
Notes			
777/RENTED: NO/DIR	ECTION:NW/# PERSON ON BOARD:1/MARINE STADIUM/MODERATE		
DAMAGE			
Link Involvement Invl No Nan	e	Race	Sex
DRV DRV 1			
DOB	-		_
Narrative			

Vessel Accident Report received in Reporting/#11297



400 WEST BROADWAY LONG BEACH, CA 90802 Reported Date
03/28/2022
Primary Offense
FATAL
Officer
JOHNSON, JOSEPH I

Phone
562 570-7381 RECORDS
Fax
562 570-7080 FAX

Administrative Information											
Agency				DR No	DR No		Supplement No Rep		Repo	Reported Time	
LONG BEAC	H POLICE	POLICE DEPARTMENT		21-371	.37	001	L 03	3/28/2022		11:30	
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Officer			' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' '	1		Assignment					
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7580 PATROL/FIELD SUP/TRAFFIC/CID				D	Successful Successful						
Approving Officer Approval Date				Approval Time							
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Narrative											

I (Detective J. Johnson #7580) am currently assigned to the Collision Investigation Detail and was assigned as the case officer for this incident.

I have been in routine contact with the Long Beach Fire Department regarding the investigation. I have reviewed the relevant documents and approve this report to be completed and the investigation closed.

Report Officer	Printed At	
7580/JOHNSON, JOSEPH I	03/30/2022 14:14	Page 1 of 1



April 11, 2022

Southern California Speedboat Club 1803 Morgan Lane Redondo Beach, CA 90278 Attn: Ross Wallach

Re: 2022 ARP Long Beach Sprint Nationals Proposed Date: August 6-7, 2022

Dear Mr. Wallach:

An investigation in the 2021 Long Beach Sprint Nationals has been completed. A team comprised of multiple city departments, which included representation from the Fire and Police Departments; Marine Safety; Risk Management/City Safety Office; and Special Events was assembled to review the findings of the Sprint Nationals boat racing event in August of 2021. The purpose of the team was to determine if this type of event is safe to be held in the Marine Stadium venue.

The investigation included video and other evidence and provided confirmation that the speed of the vessels and the size of the venue contributed to the cause of the accident. The Vessel Accident Report states that the "combination of the speed, proximity of the vessels, the unstable water environment, and limited steerage ability made the accident difficult to avoid in that particular moment in time." Video shows the wake created by the vessels hitting against the rocks and being pushed back into the vessels path of travel. These wakes and high rate of speed caused one of the boat racers to lose control of the vessel, which collided with another boat and overturned. The driver of the overturned vessel was ejected and died from his injuries. Based on first-hand public safety personnel accounts and video, the unattended vessel continued at a high rate of speed, only overturning after hitting a wake. Had the vessel not overturned, it may have continued toward the spectating public with no physical barrier preventing impact.

There were similar patterns to the cause of the accident in the 2018 Marine Stadium race, including the rate of speed the vessels were traveling, the wakes created by the boats, and the small size of the stadium venue. These conditions also resulted in the death of one of the boat racers. Again, according to first-hand public safety personnel accounts, the unattended vessel continued travelling at a high rate of speed and penetrated the south border safety barrier comprised of manned vessels. At the time of the accident, the driver was immediately killed; however, the accelerator remained depressed. Had rescue teams not successfully boarded and stopped the vessel, it would have continued toward the swimming area of Mother's Beach, posing a danger to the public.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SPEEDBOAT CLUB April 11, 2022 Page 2

Based on the information above and your current application submitted to the Office of Special Events and Filming on August 25, 2021, the investigation team concluded that the Sprint Nationals Boat Racing Event is unsafe and poses a danger to both racing participants and spectators in its current configuration and specified safety requirements.

If you wish to appeal this denial, please refer to Long Beach Municipal Code 5.60.120 outlining the appeals process for a special event.

Sincerely,

THOMAS B. MODICA CITY MANAGER



NOTICE OF APPEAL PURSUANT TO LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 5.60.120

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Long Beach Municipal Code §5.60.120 that applicant Southern California Speedboat Club ("SCSC") hereby appeals the decision of the City Manager dated April 5, 2022 but received by appellant on April 11, 2022

The basis for the appeal is:

1: The denial of the permit for the Sprint Nationals event scheduled for August 6 & 7 is contradicted by the evidence.

City Manager Modica quotes from the accident report in his letter of April 5 that the "combination of the speed, proximity of the vessels, the unstable water environment, and limited steerage ability made the accident difficult to avoid in that particular moment in time." However, this is not the case. The two K-boat drivers were the best and most experienced racers and had full control of their respective vessels. John "Jay" Hart had over 25 years' experience and Duff Daily over 50 years. Both drivers showed mastery and control which is why there were licensed to drive in the "K Racing Runabout" class which licenses only the most experienced drivers. The cause of the incident was simply driver error by Daily when he attempted to pass Hart in the open cockpit boat. Duff mistakenly believed he had room but the boats momentarily touched which caused Hart's to overturn and eject him into water. Contrary to the City Manager's unfounded conclusions, this incident was simply the result of a common risk inherent in the sport.

The City Manager's assertion that "based on first-hand public safety personnel accounts and video, the unattended vessel continued at a high rate of speed, only overturning after hitting a wake [and] had the vessel not overturned, it may have continued toward the spectating public with no physical barrier preventing impact" is also untrue. The video recordings taken at turn 3 and the airborne drone footage directly refute this as the boat came to a dead stop within a short distance nowhere near the shore.

All vessels entered in SCSC events—including Hart's K-boat-- are required to have an operable kill switch attached by a lanyard to your personal flotation device. Here, Hart's kill switch immediately activated as designed upon his ejection and brought the boat to a stop right side up in the center of the race course mere yards from the actual collision point where upon it sunk due to the hole in side of the boat below the waterline sustained in the collision. SCSC conducts before each race rigorous safety inspections by licensed tech officials that mandate operable kill switches that are personally verified on every single vessel prior to each event. The report of the Long

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CONG BEACH, CA
ACCEIVED

Beach Police Report (No #21-37137) also supports the findings that there was no mechanical or technical fault of any equipment of safety devices on the Hart vessel.

This was simply a tragic and unfortunate racing accident that was not caused by any dangerous conditions of the facility while being used in this intended manner (which it was designed for and has been used for hundreds of events dating back decades), nor was the result of any wake caused by any such activity or condition. Furthermore, at no time was the public placed in any danger by this incident in which all spectator safety protocols, devices and inspections worked as intended.

City Manager Modica also references "similar patterns to cause the accident" from an incident four years ago in 2018. This is an unfair and manifestly untrue representation because that incident was caused by one driver oversteering in a turn and spinning out when causing a collision with the oncoming vessel driven by Greg Duff. It is NOT true that the Duff "accelerator was depressed after the collision" as Mr. Modica states. The engine merely remained idling after the collision with the boat, by all accounts, proceeding at less than 10 mph. Mr. Duff was furthermore rendered unconscious and did not have his foot on the accelerator. There is zero similarity between the incidents of 2018 and 2021 and the City Manager regrettably resorts to wholly unfounded comparisons to cast a pox on SCSC's permit application.

It is furthermore untrue, as Mr. Modica asserts, that the boat left the safety zone. Mr. Duff's boat never left the safety zone as the rescue team boarded it and immediately pulled the kill switch and starting assessing and treating Mr. Duff. Again, Mr. Modica dramatically proclaims that "the driver was immediately killed" which is a false exaggeration designed to generate visions of a 'crime scene' and cause alarm because the truth is that Mr. Duff was hospitalized and remained alive for over 10 days after the accident.

Regardless, in light of this incident and in our ongoing efforts to address and rectify all issues with the City's respective agencies, a barrier system was put into place at the perimeter and beach for the event which included a line of floating barrels that are strung together to act a layer of defense to prevent a boat from ever possibly breeching the safety zone or beach area. This was deemed acceptable by all parties involved, including City Manager Modica and was added to the Site Plan for the Long Beach Sprint Nationals event. To this day there have been no spectator fatalities or even any claims or lawsuits for personal injury brought against the City or the SCSC in connection with this event at this venue. This is because the SCSC runs a conscientious and safety-mandated operation in which rules are promulgated and enforced, and suggestions from venue owners are considered and adopted based upon the actual facts and circumstances that exist.

2: SCSC was not allowed to present reasonable modifications to mitigate the City's concerns.

From Monday, August 9th, 2021 to the writing of this appeal (April 13, 2022) on no less than 7 separate times I, on behalf of the SCSC, personally requested via email/calls a "debrief" meeting with the City and all departments to discuss all aspects of the incident. This event is a historic and beneficial staple in the community since 1946 and with myself as Race Director starting in 1998. In all those years SCSC has been afforded an opportunity to have a debrief with all departments with the exception of the City's actions after the incident in 2018 and 2021. It was only after public outcry did the City Manager agree to a meeting in 2019 to discuss the accident of 2018 and agree to the proposed mitigation strategy for the 2019 event. I had hoped the City Manager would have afforded SCSC the opportunity to present the actions the Board of Directors had taken in the wake of the 2021 accident and to allow a deliberative process to govern this application based and not errors, unsupported half-truths and exaggeration.

Unfortunately, myself and the SCSC board were misled as all correspondence from the office of Special Events and Filming said that I would be able to get a meeting once the city had concluded it accident investigation to allow meaningful participation by an event and sanctioning body that has steadfastly contributed to this community for over 7 decades. Instead, the SCSC was told that the accident investigation was concluded some time ago and yet I have only received a denial letter from City Manager Modica on April 11 that was dated April 5th, 2022.¹

3: The safety of the public was never jeopardized but the SCSC has nonetheless implemented mitigation measures which warrant the issuance of the permit

The safety staff of the SCSC are experts in powerboat racing safety and our hired Safety Compliance Office have all concluded the following after reviewing all the evidence including the vessels, witness statements and video recordings (which we are happy to provide): The incidents of 2018 and 2021 were dissimilar in all material respects but were the result of a risk inherent in the sport, driver error. Both the 2018 and 2021 incidents involved open cockpit boats racing in the same class with encapsulated boats and colliding with one another. In both cases the drivers of the open cockpit boats died as a result. We looked at the speed, size of race course and did NOT find this was in any way a causal part of the accident equation. In light of this evidence the SCSC, as the promoting and sanctioning body, made the decision to mitigate accidents of this kind utilizing a four-part approach:

1) From September 1, 2021 on, NO encapsulated boats would be permitted to race on a course with an open cockpit boat.

¹ As an aside it is noted that the City has directed two letters to the SCSC which are verbatim of one another with the exception of one being dated April 5 and the other April 11, 2022. The SCSC trusts that this was not done in an effort to deprive the SCSC the time necessary to fully briefing the instant appeal.

- 2) From September 1, 2021 for the K Racing Runabout Class and from January 1, 2022 for the Unblown Flat Class all boats participating in these two classes must be fully encapsulated.
- 3) Heat races containing the Unblown Flat Class and K Racing Runabout classes will be limited to no more than 4 boats at a time at Long Beach Marine Stadium.
- 4) All other safety protocols that were put in place after the 2018 accident shall remain in place for the 2022 event and beyond.

The implementation of these rules/guidelines will virtually eliminate the chance of future K-Boat incidents resulting in a fatality from a driver being ejected or struck by a competitor's vessel because open cockpit boats are being removed from competition and overall class size in heat races is reduced. This is the type of constructive and fact-based approach that will remedy the concerns of all stakeholders and which the city neglected to consider when wrongfully denying SCSC's permit for the Sprint Nationals.

Lastly, it cannot be overstated enough that in the 25 years we (SCSC) have promoted this historically and culturally significant event at Long Beach Marine Stadium there has NEVER been a lawsuit brought against us or the City of Long Beach relating to this event. No spectators have ever been hurt while attending this event, no claims have been filed by any participant or attendee. If given the opportunity we feel 100% confident our decisions will continue this tradition while continuing to provide for the safety and wellbeing of everyone involved.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call me directly at either (310) 318-4012 or rpmracingent@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

Ross Wallach, President

SCSC

1803 Morgan Lane

Redondo Beach, CA 90278

(310) 318-4012

www.scscracing.com



REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date:

May 20, 2022

To:

Monique De La Garza, City Clerk

From:

Thomas B. Modica, City Manager Till

Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of May 24, 2022

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Refer to Hearing Officer the special event application denial appeal by Ross Wallach (applicant) of the Southern California Speedboat Club for the 2022 Long Beach Sprint Nationals event requested to be held at Marine Stadium, 5255 Paoli Way, Long Beach CA 90803. (District 3)

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by			
3	Suzie Price	(Digital – attached email)			
5	Stacy Mungo	(Digital – attached email)			
7	Roberto Uranga	(Digital – attached email)			

Attachment: Staff Report dated May 24, 2022