Gregory C. Hudon
Superintendent

Mark LeBlanc
Deputy Superintendent

Frank Nobrega, Jr.
Deputy Superintendent

Stephen Gendreau
Deputy Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager

FROM: Gregory C. Hudon, Superintendent

DATE: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: **C. Nuon - Req. City Mgr. Contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police Regarding Jet Ski Operation Enforcement On The Merrimack River, Next To The Falls**

The Lowell Police Department routinely conducts safety patrols on the Merrimack River during the boating season. The Lowell Police Department coordinates staffing for river patrols with partner agencies to include the Massachusetts Environmental Police, Chelmsford Police, and Tyngsborough Police.

The Lowell Police Department conducts river boat patrols every weekend, weather permitting, during the boating season, as well as other days of the week when increased activity is expected, such as holidays and special events. The Police Department also conducts these patrols on select days where information gathered, whether from the public or other police resources, suggests that there will be more activity than usual.

The Lowell Police boat patrol monitors for infractions under MGL chapter 90B (Marine infractions) and takes enforcement action as needed to include everything from issuing a warning, issuing a citation, up to terminating a voyage. Police River boat patrols are assisted by a separate officer conducting additional enforcement and safety checks at the boat ramp. This enforcement includes monitoring for MGL Chapter 90 violations, to include unregistered trailers and vehicles.

In 2021, River Patrol officers conducted the following enforcement:

- Thirty-five Personal Watercrafts (PWC or Wave Runners) had their voyage terminated and were removed from the river.
- Three boats had their voyage terminated and were removed from the river.
- Twelve kayaks had their voyage terminated for operating after dark.
- Seventy-three Verbal Warnings were issued for various safety and navigation violations to include reckless operation violations.
- Eleven Citations (Civil) were issued for other assorted safety and navigation violations.

In 2022, River Patrol officers conducted the following enforcement:

- River Patrol Officers conducted 167 Safety and Compliance Inspections on the river.
- Thirty-one citations were issued for Careless/Negligent Operation.
- One hundred seventeen verbal warnings were issued for various violation of MGL Ch. 90B (Marine violations).
- Three Civil Motor Vehicle Citations Issued by Boat Patrol Officers at Rourke Ramp.
- Nineteen Personal Watercrafts and Boats had their voyage terminated and were removed from the river for Safety or Compliance Violations or for Negligent Operation.
- Five disabled boats were assisted and brought to safety.
- Officers responded to six Medical Calls and rendered medical attention on the river.

In 2023, River Patrol Officers conducted the following enforcement:

- River Patrol officers conducted 173 Safety and Compliance Inspections on the river, 90B (Marine).
- Thirty-three Citations were issued for Careless/Negligent Operation, 90B (Marine offenses.)
- One hundred twenty-nine Verbal Warnings Issued – 129, Chapter 90B.
- One Motor Vehicle Citation issued by Boat Patrol Officers at the Rourke Boat Ramp.
- Twenty-three Personal Watercrafts and Boats had their voyage terminated and were removed from the river for Safety or Compliance Violations or for Negligent Operation.
- Four disabled boats were assisted and brought to safety.
- River Patrol Officers responded to five Medical Calls and rendered medical attention.
- Officers responded to two Boat accidents, one of which involved a boat that collided with a regatta rowing boat putting rowers into the river and injuring two rowers.
- Officers conducted three searches for potential drowning victims in water, two of which occurred in Lowell, and one in Tyngsboro.
- Officers participated in the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Event which was held at the Lowell Motorboat Club.