

**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT
DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

Date: February 19, 2015
To: Harbor Commission
From: Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director
Subject: Harbor Operations Report

CATAMARAN FIRE IN MARINA 2

At 9:30 p.m. on January 27th, Harbor Patrol received a telephone call reporting a boat fire (fully engulfed) at a side-tie berth in Marina 2. Officer Erik Engebretson responded aboard Patrol Boat #3 (PB #3) and Harbor Patrol Officer Ryan Kelly staged at the dock for City Fire aboard Patrol Boat #2 (PB #2).

Officer Engebretson arrived on scene to find the 33' catamaran *Wizard of Bristol's* main cabin fully engulfed in flames and fire climbing up its mast. Ignited embers from the mast were falling into the water and surrounding areas. Using PB #3's fire monitor, Officer Engebretson sprayed several nearby exposed vessels and then attempted to knock down the blaze on the *Wizard of Bristol*. Officer Kelly arrived within minutes with firefighters who extended fire-hose lines from PB #2's standpipes. The burning fiberglass-composite hull, canvas and sail materials, as well as the vessel's design, made the fire difficult to extinguish, but the mission was accomplished in about ten minutes, thanks to training and teamwork.

Once the fire was extinguished, Harbor Patrol and firefighters secured the vessel, deployed a containment boom and assisted fire investigators. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

FELONY CONVICTION FOR MAN WHO INJURED HARBOR PATROL OFFICER

In early February, 54-year-old Tony Denunzio pled guilty to a felony charge of "Resisting a Peace Officer, Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury to the Officer." Sentencing is scheduled for March 5th. The conviction stemmed from a May, 2014 contact with now-retired Harbor Patrol Sergeant Ed Stetson. Sergeant Stetson sustained a serious arm injury while attempting to detain Mr. Denunzio, who had disobeyed a legal order to "stop" following a report linking him to a possible burglary in Marina One. After the contact that resulted in Sergeant Stetson's injury, Mr. Denunzio fled the scene on foot and was ultimately arrested by Santa Barbara City Police.

Commenting on the conviction, Deputy District Attorney Marguerite Charles stated, "The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to holding accountable those offenders who injure our law enforcement officers while they are lawfully carrying out their duties."

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager