

## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 18, 2019  
**To:** Harbor Commission  
**From:** Scott Riedman, Waterfront Director  
**Subject:** **Harbor Operations Report**

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#### **QUICK ACTION DOUSES STEARNS WHARF FIRE**

Thanks to sharp-eyed Night Wharfinger Tracy Ireland, Harbor Patrol and City Firefighters were able to extinguish a fire on the west side of Stearns Wharf in windy, dry conditions just after midnight on May 27th, preventing a serious conflagration. Mr. Ireland smelled smoke and heard popping, crackling sounds from beneath the Wharf deck near the Harbor Restaurant's valet lot, then saw flames and knew to act fast. An equally quick response from Harbor Patrol and City Fire, including spraying water from a Patrol boat and from the Wharf deck, plus lifting deck boards to ensure the threat was contained, stemmed what could have been a disaster.

Likely cause of the fire was a smoldering cigarette, a sobering reminder that "flicking a butt" can destroy property and endanger lives, especially when it winds up in trash cans or rolls into cracks between deck boards on Stearns Wharf. Remember: A City-wide outdoor smoking ban includes all Waterfront sidewalks, parking lots, and Stearns Wharf. For a structure with a history of devastating fires, we all need to help prevent another one.

#### **ANOTHER YEAR OF GREAT FINDS AT THE HARBOR NAUTICAL SWAP MEET**

Vendors occupied a record 77 stalls at the tenth annual Nautical Swap Meet on May 25th, dishing out bargain deals for fishing rods and reels, kayaks, paddle boards, surfboards, anchors, chain, nautical art, dive gear, shark teeth, ship's compasses, sailboat rigging, and much more. The event was sponsored by Waterfront Department and Harbor Merchants Association, the latter supplying free donuts, coffee, bagels, and fruit.

#### **WATERFRONT WELCOMES THOUSANDS FOR FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

Santa Barbara's Fourth of July celebration brought thousands of people to the Waterfront to enjoy a family-friendly day and night. Amid ideal weather conditions, visitors enjoyed live music on Stearns Wharf and West Beach from noon until the fireworks display at 9 p.m. Three bounce houses entertained children next to the West Beach music stage, and vendors served a variety of wares and fare to the public along Cabrillo Boulevard throughout the day. And, while the beach was packed, the crowd was well behaved and the atmosphere distinctly mellow. A spectacular fireworks show,

care of Garden State Fireworks, was simulcast on KJEE 92.9 FM and streamed live on KEYT.com. Many of those who attended said it was the best show they've ever seen.

Waterfront staff worked with several City departments and its nonprofit partners to coordinate this safe, fun, and popular event, including an engaging social media and web presence to efficiently communicate with the public. The Fourth of July webpage, in fact, was the most visited page on the City website two weeks in a row. Also of note was the near-pristine condition of the beach the next morning, a testament to the hard work of Waterfront and Parks staff as well as conscientious event-goers.

Prepared by: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager