



**Written Public Comment Submitted For:
Slip Assignment Policy Subcommittee Meeting
of May 18, 2021**



From: [Fred Hepp](#)
To: [Angela R. Rodriguez](#)
Subject: Fwd: Slip transfer fees
Date: Monday, May 10, 2021 11:37:15 AM

EXTERNAL

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>> Dear Slip Assignment Policy Subcommittee

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>> As a 53 year commercial fishing boat mooring and slip renter I have been watching the committee meetings waiting for a discussion about a reduction of the slip transfer fees. I am still waiting. Amazingly at the last meeting the harbor director stated he wanted to raise and raise and raise the fees for 10 years. Currently the fee for my 53 foot fishing boat is \$525/foot which he wants to raise to \$1000./foot. In my recollection he has never mentioned the lowering of this excessive fee for anyone or group. I understand the fees started with the sale (money transfer) of yachts aided by a system to transfer the slip so these boats could be sold (with slip) to the new owner.

>> As a original slip renter I was never aware this system existed.

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>> I am the owner of a 53 foot commercial fishing boat. Because of my age I am passing on my fishing boat (no money exchanged) to my fisherman sons to continue our fishing tradition. I feel I do not belong in the same as the boat sales people. Two years ago after being told at the harbor office that my slip transfer fee for my sons was \$28,000 but my wife could be added to my slip for \$50. I did not know what to do. I added my wife to my slip at that time which shows **THAT A REASONABLE FEE IS POSSIBLE.**

>> I feel the slip transfer fee for my sons should be reasonable.....perhaps \$1000. but not \$28,000.

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>> Today- as Salmon season started May 1st- fifteen Santa Barbara salmon boats are fishing between Avila Beach and San Francisco and will be unavailable for meetings.

>> Each of these fishermen faces my situation in the near future and each feels as I do.

>> I hope the next meeting with the harbor director addresses this problem and a fair solution sent to the final decision makers.

>> Thank you,

>> Fred Hepp

>> Boat Gloria Marie

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>> Sent from my iPad

May 17, 2021

Dear Slip Holders,

Tomorrow May 18, 2021 at 3:00 PM the Slip Assignment Policy Subcommittee meets again.

The City of Santa Barbara and Waterfront Director Mike Wiltshire are likely set to announce to slip holders at the meeting they will not allow the ability to add adult children to your slip permit for a fair reduced fee. While they allow a spousal addition for \$50.00, not so for your children. The City of Santa Barbara will tell us something along the lines allowing a reduced fee for adding your adult children is unfair and inequitable and treats people differently even though we have already paid their exorbitant slip transfer fees (and they have the State of California on their side [anything for money]). They are ok with the addition of adult children *if* we pay their exorbitant fees. Plan on continuing to be raked over the financial coals by the City of Santa Barbara.

In addition to the foregoing, there has been discussion of the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department reaching out to all slip holders with correspondence and a questionnaire on the issue of exorbitant gouge slip transfer fees. Transparency and fairness to all slip holders would have required notice from the City of Santa Barbara and outreach to all slip holders a year ago.

A year has elapsed and the City of Santa Barbara has provided no financial relief to slip holders in the form of reducing their extremely high transfer fees. Instead, during the past year and Pandemic the City of Santa Barbara has raised the slip transfer fee. The City of Santa Barbara will do everything they can to not provide you with any financial relief from their onerous and unfair slip transfer fees.

Thus far the City of Santa Barbara has discussed switching to a percentage-based slip transfer fee (no slip holder I know of has asked the City for a change to a percentage-based system [the City appears to want a percentage-based system because they want more money and to again raise the fees and take more money from you]) and they want 20%.

Their proposed 20% would lower fees on small slips somewhat significantly, totally insignificantly lower slip transfer fees on mid-sized slips, and perhaps very significantly raise the slip transfer fee on large slips. So instead of helping out the slip holders which are the life blood of our marina and reducing the slip transfer fee in a meaningful manner and providing financial relief to people, the City of Santa Barbara wants to raise your fees.

Gouging the small guy slip holders apparently wasn't enough for Waterfront Director Wiltshire and City Council and slip holders with large slips should now expect much higher slip transfer fees which will reduce your investment in the system and the value

of your boat and slip. The higher the slip transfer fee goes the more of your investment gets eroded away and wrongfully taken and transferred to the City of Santa Barbara.

Political accountability of City Council is one of the next steps. Thus far the Santa Barbara City Council has been insulated from and able to avoid political heat and accountability for the problem due to having various layers between the City Council and slip holders (Mike Wiltshire and the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission).

It is not difficult to cast your vote for the opponent of any Santa Barbara City Council person that does not see to it as a priority we as a harbor community receive some fairness in the fees we pay (and of course you are free to email and tell your voting friends).

Assistant City Attorney Knecht publicly stated the slip transfer fee could be lowered and yet a year has passed and no one at the City of Santa Barbara has lifted a finger to help the slip holder community and lower the slip transfer fee. In the future we will circulate harbor wide the names of any Santa Barbara City Council person(s) that does not help the harbor slip holder community and work now to provide real financial relief from the runaway train of exorbitant slip transfer fees.

Slip holders want the slip transfer fee substantially lowered. Slip holders want to be able to add more than two (doubled to four) people to a slip permit for one exorbitant gouge slip transfer fee.

Please do attend the meetings. We know the meeting is scheduled again during the workday at an inconvenient time. The City of Santa Barbara has been repeatedly respectfully asked to hold these meetings after the workday for most folks has concluded but they do not care and do not want you to attend and be involved and therefore keep holding these meetings during the day while most people are unavailable at work or getting children from school.

If the City of Santa Barbara wanted or valued slip holder involvement, thoughts and opinions, they would have reached out to the entire slip holder population immediately and sought input and would hold these meetings starting at a reasonable hour after work hours at 6:00 PM. A takeaway from the meetings continually being scheduled while people have to be at work or retrieving children from school that makes attendance impossible for many is that your opinions and thoughts on the matter are unwanted.

The City of Santa Barbara is totally unwilling to help the harbor slip holder community as evidenced by the year long process yielding no financial relief for slip holders and for that you can thank Waterfront Director Mike Wiltshire, members of the Harbor Commission and City Council.

It would be great to have all slip holders attend these meetings and express to the City of Santa Barbara their thoughts on the matter. Perhaps it is more convenient for slip

holders to vote when the time comes regarding individual City Council member continuance in public office according to whether or not the Santa Barbara City Council lowers the fees in a manner that brings long overdue fairness and financial relief to all slip holders. Thank you for your attention to the foregoing.

Sincerely,

William Nash