



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 7, 2017

TO: Mayor Donahue and City Council

FROM: Michael Guina, City Attorney

SUBJECT: **Consideration Of The Operation Of Prop SF Private Ferry Service At The Emeryville Marina**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the City Council receive this report and provide direction as necessary.

BACKGROUND

On November 1, 2016, the City Council received an information report regarding a then-new ferry service at the Emeryville Marina operated by PROP SF ("Prop"). At the time, Prop had begun operating a private charter ferry service open to the general public. At the November 1, 2016 meeting, the City Council considered comments from the public regarding Prop's service and potential impacts. The staff report from that meeting as well as the action minutes describing the comments are attached as Exhibits A and B, respectively. Issues discussed included traffic and parking at the Marina lots and on Powell Street, as well as noise from the ferry boats impacting the residents at Watergate.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the City Council directed staff to bring back an informational item to the new City Council with an update on Prop's operations.

DISCUSSION

When Prop began operations in 2016, they offered 2-3 roundtrip crossings between Emeryville and San Francisco during each of the morning and evening weekday commute hours. However by mid-2017, Prop has apparently stopped providing charter ferry service available to the general public. Safe Harbor reports that Prop has three vessels in Emeryville Marina which are home-ported there (i.e., the vessels berth and take fuel at the marina). However Prop does not currently run a service open to the general public but instead provides private service under contract with large employers in the Bay Area. This private service model is consistent with Prop's permit from the California Public Utilities Commission as well as the lease between Safe Harbor and the City and does not require additional approvals from the City.

Since the hearing on November 1, 2016, Staff has not received any complaints regarding Prop's operations either as a service open to the public or as a private charter.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

STAFF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

Staff has contacted representatives from Safe Harbor, the operators of the Emeryville Marina, regarding this item.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends the City Council receive this report and provide direction to staff as deemed necessary.

PREPARED BY: Michael Guina, City Attorney

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:



Michael Guina

ATTACHMENTS

- Staff Report: November 1, 2016
- Action Minutes: November 1, 2016 (see: Item # 9.1.)