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PLANNING AND CODES DEPARTMENT

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MEMO:

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Alexandra E. Sykes - City Planner

CC: Erin Herbig – City Manager; Bub Fournier – Director Planning and Codes, and
Kathy Givens – Harbor Master

Date: February 6th, 2025

Re: First Reading – Proposed Amendments to Chapter 30 Marine Activities

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the November 16th, 2024 City Council Workshop, the Harbor Advisory Committee recommended the Council consider adopting regulations for large passenger vessels that carry 50 or more passengers within the Harbor. The topic was discussed amongst the Council, various stakeholders, and staff during the meeting. As a culmination of the meeting, Council proposed the Harbor Advisory Committee prepare further specificity to their recommendation and present said information to be discussed at a future subsequent regular Council meeting.

During the regular City Council meeting of January 21st, 2025, Councilors revisited the topic of defining further regulations in regard to limiting the amount of passengers for large passenger vessels to embark and disembark, including by tender, at the City Landing or other City property or marine facilities. After discussion and consensus by the Council, the Council directed Planning and Codes staff to draft Ordinance language to reflect said recommendations by the Harbor Advisory Committee.

In the documents provided, you will find drafted Ordinance Amendments to Chapter 30 Marine Activities that would modify the allowances for large passenger vessels. The Amendments propose that any marine vessel certified to carry 50 or more passengers shall not be allowed to embark or disembark guest passengers, including by tender, at the City Landing or other City property or marine facilities. The draft Ordinance language for your review is marked up in the typical manner, in which the proposed changes are indicated in red.

Planning and Codes staff ran a public hearing notice for two weeks in the Midcoast Villager. In addition, mailed notices of this meeting were sent to all property owners in the Waterfront Mixed Use-1 and Waterfront Mixed Use-2 zoning districts as well as other stakeholders, which included local business groups and cruise ship industry contacts.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS

I respectfully request the Council to allow Planning and Codes staff to present the proposed Ordinance Amendment incorporating language to modify the allowances for large passenger vessels. In addition, I respectfully request the Council conduct a public hearing. After discussion, I respectfully request the Council consider accepting the First Reading and direct staff to arrange a Second Reading for potential adoption.

Draft Motion: To accept the First Reading of the proposed Ordinance Amendment consisting of proposed ordinance language updates to Chapter 30 Marine Activities and direct staff to arrange a Second Reading at an upcoming meeting.