

## News Release

### **Board establishes program to increase marine safety patrols on Oakland County lakes**

*Resolution authored by Commissioner Nelson appropriates \$50,000 for pilot program*

**June 27, 2022, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – The Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to establish a pilot program that aims to increase marine safety patrols on Oakland County lakes during the 2022 boating season at its meeting on June 23. The resolution, authored by Commissioner **Kristen Nelson** (D-Waterford Twp.), appropriates \$50,000 for the program. Oakland County has more inland lakes, more registered boats and handles more watercraft accidents than any other county in the state.

“The Board of Commissioners strongly supports providing public safety on county lakes and a safe and enjoyable boating environment for Oakland County residents and visitors,” Nelson said. “Residents throughout our water communities have voiced their safety concerns, and we’re taking proactive measures by increasing marine patrols on lakes throughout Oakland County.”

The Oakland County Sheriff’s Office will determine where to increase patrols based on the number of calls for services, incidents reported, and level of boater activity during the last three years. The Marine Unit responds to complaints, boating accidents, search and rescue, drownings, and water-related accidents on Oakland County lakes.

“With summer here and boater activity rapidly increasing, we are appreciative of the commissioners giving us extra resources to add extra lake patrols to help keep those enjoying Oakland County’s 450 lakes safe,” Oakland County Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard said.

Oakland County is a popular destination for boaters and water enthusiasts from across the tri-county region. With more nearly 70-square miles of water, the Marine Unit is responsible for covering over 450 navigable lakes, five major rivers and 3,000 miles of shoreline.

For more information about the Board of Commissioners, please visit [www.oakgov.com/boc](http://www.oakgov.com/boc) or call 248-858-0100.

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