

DRAFT

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Ron V. Dellums
Mayor of Oakland
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
3rd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Reinstatement of dedicated staffing for Oakland's Fireboat Seawolf

Dear Mayor Dellums:

The Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) of the San Francisco Bay Region recently discussed how to better respond to Man Overboard incidents such as the fatal accident of an Oakland longshore worker. Seawolf's ability at rescue may have saved this man's life. The discussion also focused on the importance of the Oakland Fireboat Seawolf as a potential nearby responder.

On July 8, 2007 the Committee sent a letter to you encouraging the Council "to reinstate the dedicated staff for the fireboat Seawolf in support of safe navigation and emergency response to the maritime community." Similarly, the fireboat could respond to life saving incidents such as the tragedy that occurred. The HSC, at its May 14th, 2009 meeting voted to again urge the City of Oakland to reinstate the fireboat Seawolf's dedicated staff.

The Harbor Safety Committee was established by state legislation in 1991 to make recommendations to prevent maritime accidents. The twenty-member HSC is composed of a wide representation of the maritime community, including the Port authorities, state and federal agencies, bar pilots, labor, ferry operators, cargo and oil carriers, tug and barge operators, recreational boaters, commercial fisheries, and an environmental representative.

The Committee thanks you for your reconsideration of this important community asset.

Sincerely,

Joan Lundstrom, Chair
Harbor Safety Committee of the San Francisco Bay Region

Cc: SF Bay Region-Harbor Safety Committee
NorCal-Area Maritime Security Committee
Oakland City Council
ILWU Local