

## COVER MEMO

**Briefing Date/Time:** November 24, 2025

**Staff Contact/Title:** Damien Egan, Harbor Senior Manager, 360.528.8045, [damiene@portolympia.com](mailto:damiene@portolympia.com)

**Subject:** Harbor Patrol Briefing & Organizational Transition Advisory

**Purpose:** ☒ Information Only ☐ Decision Needed

### **Overview:**

An overview and future transition plan for the Port of Olympia Harbor Patrol, presented in two parts:

- Part 1: Briefing with no action required.
- Part 2: Advisory with no action required.
  - o Action to be requested at a future Commission meeting.

### **Background:**

The Port of Olympia has operated the Harbor Patrol since acquiring the program from the City of Olympia in 2015. Port staff and Harbor Patrol Commanders will first provide an overview of the program and current limitations. Port staff will then provide an advisory presentation on a proposed transfer of the Harbor Patrol program to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office.

### **Documents Attached:**

PowerPoint Presentation.

### **Summary and Financial Impact:**

The Harbor Patrol program has a proposed 2026 operating budget of \$35,000. This budget expense is accounted for within the Port's Government Services budget section.

### **Affected Parties:**

Port of Olympia  
Thurston County Sheriff's Office  
City of Olympia  
Harbor Patrol

**Next Steps/Timeframe:**

Staff will return to the Commission for approval of an interlocal agreement (ILA) between the Port and the Thurston County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) to effect a complete transfer of the organization and its two vessels. The intent is for the program to be fully maintained but operating in the future under the auspices of the TCSO Marine Services Unit (MSU).

**Considerations and Conclusion:**

The Port's oversight of the Harbor Patrol program over the last 10 years has ensured the continuation of a former City of Olympia program that has been an essential community asset. Increased costs associated with maintaining its two vessels, increased liability to the Port by providing these services – coupled with the lack of Port law enforcement authority – has placed a significant burden on continuing operations. Transferring the program to TCSO will reduce Port budget and staff obligations, will allow the program to have oversight from an entity more in line with the Harbor Patrol Mission, will add a needed law enforcement capability to Thurston County waterways, and will achieve expanded community benefits.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Port staff recommends approval of the transfer ILA when presented to the Commission.