




**PORT of OLYMPIA**  
Serving All of Thurston County

## Harbor Patrol Organizational Transition

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Harbor Senior Manager  
December 8, 2025




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## Today's Presentation

*Action Requested*

- Harbor Patrol Organizational Transition
- Thurston County Sheriff Presentation
- Questions and Comments



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## Organizational Transition

### *Rationale*

- Need for waterway law enforcement authority.
- Significant budget impact to Port under continued Port program ownership.
- Thurston County has law enforcement authority, budget funding, and supporting administrative structure (Marine Services Unit – MSU).
- Reduction of liability risk and insurance cost to Port.

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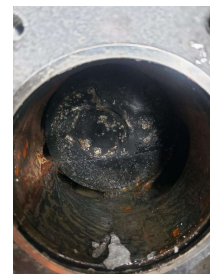


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## Organizational Transition

### *Vessel History and Status*

- 2014: Port purchased security vessel Integrity with DHS/FEMA grant.
- 2021: Integrity suffered catastrophic engine failure; repair estimate \$100,000+.
- Budget for repairs not available.



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## Organizational Transition

### *Vessel Transfer Considerations – Process*

- 2022: Port discussed transfer of Integrity to TCSO.
- 2022: Port investigated transfer of existing FEMA grant obligation to TCSO; no provision exists for direct transfer of obligation.
- Vessel transfer placed on hold.
- Harbor Patrol operations continued with Harbor 1 vessel.



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## Organizational Transition

### *Vessel Transfer Considerations – Process (cont'd)*

- 2025: Harbor 1 out of service due to needed but unfunded engine repair.
- Port reopened discussion with TCSO to verify continued interest; TCSO confirmed interest in both vessels and entire organization via its MSU.
- Port engaged FEMA to establish a process to release grant obligation and allow transfer unencumbered.



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## Organizational Transition

### *Vessel Transfer Considerations – Process (cont'd)*

- Release requires payment of 75% of fair market value to FEMA.
- March 2025: Integrity vessel survey established FMV of \$20,000.
- August 2025: Integrity surplus by Port Commission via Port Policy 125.
- November 2025: Harbor 1 also surplus by Port Commission.



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## Organizational Transition

### *Thurston County Sheriff Office Introduction*

- Undersheriff Ruben Mancillas
- Port presentation will resume afterwards...



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Thurston County Sheriff's Office

MSU Unit  
2025



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2021 – 2024

### Water Rescue Calls:

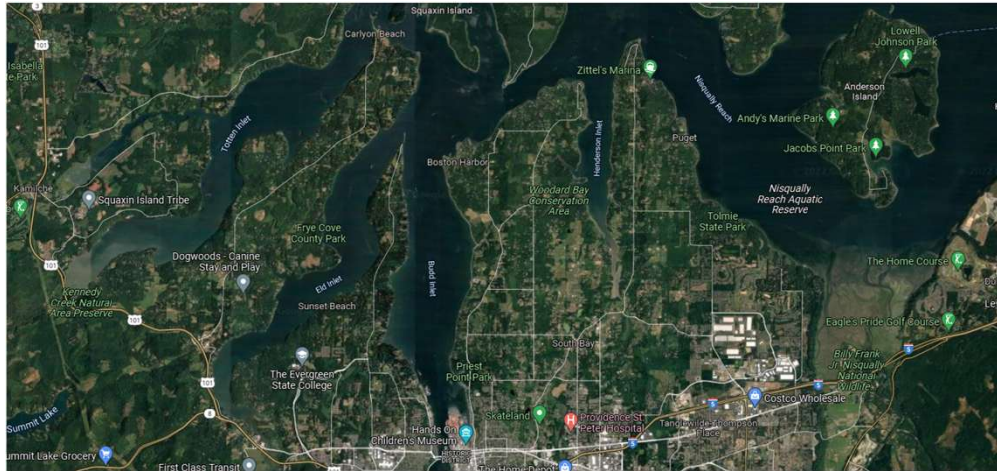
(Average 40 calls per year - 107 in 2021)

- 222 – Water Rescue Calls
- 148 – Puget Sound
- 23 – Nisqually River
- 51 – Other Water Ways



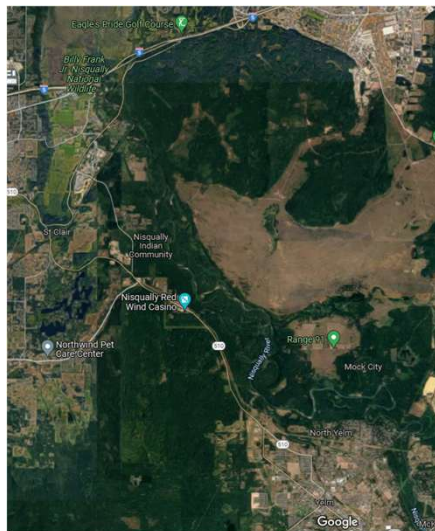
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## Puget Sound



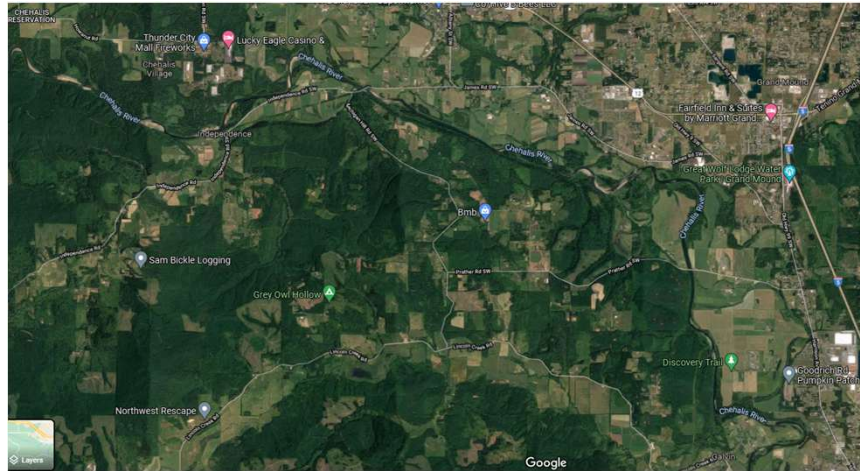
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## Nisqually River



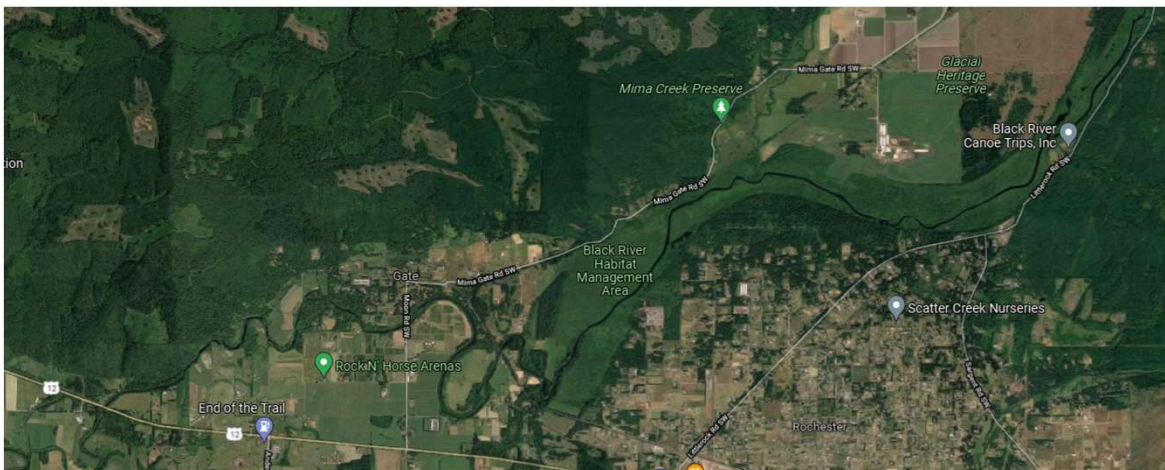
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## Chehalis River



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## Black River



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## Skookumchuck River



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## Primary Response Vessels:



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## MSU Unit:

- 1 - Program Manager TCSO Lt.
- 1 – Program Lead TCSO Sgt.
- 10 – Team members, increasing to 12 in 2026

Patrol all waterways in Thurston County and support Thurston County Dive Rescue Team

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## 2026 Addition to rescue capabilities OH58 Helicopter



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## Military converted to LE helicopters:



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## HEC System:



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## TCSO OH-58 Helicopter



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## TCSO OH-58 Helicopter Interior

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## TCSO OH-58 Helicopter Prep



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## TCSO OH-58 Helicopter Shipment



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Questions:



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## Organizational Transition

*Thurston County Sheriff Office*

- Thank you Undersheriff Mancillas



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## Organizational Transition

### *Future Implications – Looking Ahead*

- Harbor Patrol operation not aligned with Port's mission or Vision 2050.
- Expanded community benefits under TCSO MSU direction:
  - Waterways coverage area
  - Law enforcement
  - Vessel inspections
  - Safety checks



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## Organizational Transition

### *Benchmarks*

- Port acquired Harbor Patrol to avoid its extinction.
- Scope of operations remains limited under Port's authority.
- TCSO will acquire vessels and entire existing program/structure.
- TCSO has access to funding sources not available to the Port.
- Port will reduce staff time, operating expenses, and depreciation.
- Port will increase revenue from moorage and fuel sales.
- Port will continue to receive Security, Safety, and Emergency Response value.

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## Organizational Transition

### *Vessel/Program Transfer – Next Steps*

- Upon Commission approval of organizational transfer:
  - Port and TCSO staff finalize ILA provisions.
  - Port and TCSO legal counsel review and approve ILA.
  - Port Executive Director executes ILA.
  - TCSO executes ILA.



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## Organizational Transition

### *Vessel/Program Transfer – Next Steps (cont'd)*

- Port submits payment to FEMA for release of grant obligation.
- Upon Port receipt of FEMA release, Harbor Patrol organization and Port-owned vessels and program-related assets are transferred to TCSO.



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## Questions and Comments

### *Suggested Motion...*

*"...move to authorize the Executive Director to execute an interlocal agreement (ILA) between the Port of Olympia and the Thurston County Sheriff's Office (TCSO), divesting the Port of the Harbor Patrol organization and its Port-owned assets in favor of TCSO, contingent upon the following requirements having been met:*

- Mutual agreement with TCSO as to ILA terms and conditions, and*
- Approval of ILA terms by Port counsel..."*