



CITY OF STAMFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT MARINE DIVISION

August 10, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Letter of Support, Kosciuszko Park Boat Ramp Project

I am writing in strong support of the Stamford Harbor Commission's effort to construct a new public boat ramp at Kosciuszko Park.

I serve as a Deputy Fire Chief with the City of Stamford Fire Department and oversee the Department's Marine Division. Our marine resources include Fireboat 236 and Fireboat 214. From a fire, rescue, and emergency response perspective, I believe a properly designed boat ramp at Kosciuszko Park would provide an important public safety benefit to Stamford Harbor and the surrounding waterfront.

Kosciuszko Park occupies a particularly valuable location between the East and West Branches of Stamford Harbor. This central location makes it strategically important for the deployment of emergency marine resources to incidents occurring throughout the harbor and nearby waters.

Fireboat 214 is a smaller, trailerable fire and rescue boat. Unlike our larger Fireboat 236, Fireboat 214 can be transported by road to a launch point close to an emergency and placed into the water using a boat ramp. This gives the Fire Department the ability to rapidly deploy a marine asset where it is needed and to operate in shallow, confined, or otherwise restricted areas that may not be accessible to our larger fireboat.

This capability is an important part of the Stamford Fire Department's response to marine emergencies. Incidents on the water are particularly time sensitive. During a water rescue, vessel fire, medical emergency, or other incident, reducing the time required to get a rescue boat into the water can have a direct effect on our ability to reach people in distress.

At present, Stamford Harbor does not have an adequate launch point that allows us to efficiently deploy Fireboat 214 directly into the harbor. This limits an important emergency response capability. Depending upon the location and circumstances of an incident, we may be required to launch farther away and approach the emergency by water, adding time to the response.

A boat ramp at Kosciuszko Park would help address this limitation. Its location would provide the Fire Department with a centrally positioned launch point and improve our ability to place Fireboat 214 and other trailerable emergency vessels into Stamford Harbor when needed. It could also provide an additional access point for mutual aid marine resources responding to a significant incident in Stamford.

Stamford's waterfront continues to be an important recreational, residential, commercial, and transportation resource. Providing emergency responders with reliable access to that waterfront is an important component of protecting the people who live, work, and recreate in and around Stamford Harbor.

For these reasons, I strongly support the Stamford Harbor Commission's Kosciuszko Park boat ramp project. From the perspective of the Stamford Fire Department's Marine Division, this project would strengthen our marine emergency response capabilities and provide a meaningful improvement to public safety.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip L Hayes Sr.".

Philip L Hayes Sr
Deputy Fire Chief
Stamford Fire Department
Marine Division