

## Hannah Politzer

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**From:** Havel, Curtis <CHavel@marincounty.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 24, 2021 5:02 PM  
**To:** Jim Wickham - Mill Valley mail; Wickham, Jim  
**Cc:** Alan Piombo  
**Subject:** Fw: Sausalito Encampment

**CAUTION:** External Sender

Hi Jim,

I'm forwarding you an email (below) I just penned in an attempt to get ahead of a new "Action Network" letter campaign initiated by Robbie Powelson.

On a related note, something I've observed during the past few storms is that many vessel occupants go to shore during storm events, leaving their vessels unattended in the anchorage. While this is likely the safest and most secure option for those individuals, it underscores the fact that even they realize the danger posed by their vessel.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or comments.

Curtis

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**From:** Havel, Curtis <CHavel@marincounty.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 24, 2021 4:32 PM  
**To:** Havel, Curtis <CHavel@marincounty.org>  
**Cc:** Eilerman, Dan <DEilerman@marincounty.org>; Marcia Raines <mraines@sausalito.gov>; Greg Chanis <gchanis@townoftiburon.org>; Craig Middleton - City Manager <cmiddleton@cityofbelvedere.org>; Alan Piombo <apiombo@cityofmillvalley.org>; Malcolm, James <jmalcolm@marincounty.org>; Parton, Maureen <MParton@marincounty.org>  
**Subject:** Sausalito Encampment

Greetings,

It has come to my attention that Robbie Powelson and his supporters have launched a letter writing campaign to local elected officials claiming that the rise of the tent encampment just south of Dunphy Park in Sausalito is partly due to the displacement of individuals from the Richardson's Bay anchorage.

Mr. Powelson's claim that individuals were forced into the encampment because of the destruction of their vessels by the Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) is false.

The RBRA has not forcibly evicted anyone from their vessel during my tenure as Harbormaster. The RBRA has, however, removed unoccupied derelict vessels that were being stored on the bay. Furthermore, the RBRA Board of Directors adopted a Transition Plan which includes continuation programs for the ongoing outreach and facilitation of assisting vulnerable individuals on unseaworthy (and unsafe) vessels with finding safe and secure housing.

There seems to be some confusion among Mr. Powelson and his supporters as to the definition of an anchorage versus a marina. In a marina, a mariner pays for services and security, and (usually) can trust that their vessel will remain safe with minimal supervision. In an anchorage, the mariner is expected to actively manage and supervise their vessel to avoid a hazardous situation.

For mariners visiting an anchorage, it is customary (and expected) to pay for services such as water, trash disposal, pumpout services and shoreside access. It is extraordinary and terribly dangerous to have so many inoperable vessels in an anchorage that lack the ability to save themselves from peril. Unfortunately, the inability/refusal of the individuals currently anchored out in Richardson's Bay to keep their vessels in a seaworthy condition puts everyone at risk.

At least 16 vessels went adrift during the wind event of January 18 and 19. During this wind event, two vessels collided resulting in one vessel sinking and the occupant narrowly escaping with her life (her dog was not so fortunate). Vessels that were unoccupied and inoperable were towed to the Army Corps of Engineers debris dock to prevent any further damage to members of the public, the environment or private property.

If you have any questions about the activities and practices of the RBRA, please feel free to contact me. My direct line is (415) 971-3919. I'm also happy to bring you aboard the RBRA patrol vessel so you can see our standard operating practices firsthand.

Fair Winds,

Curtis Havel  
Harbormaster  
Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA)  
(415) 971-3919  
rbra.ca.gov

The Richardson's Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) is a local government agency serving Belvedere, Mill Valley, Tiburon, and unincorporated Southern Marin. RBRA is dedicated to maintaining and improving the navigational waterways, open waters, and shoreline of Richardson's Bay.

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