

Live-aboard Boats in Local Waterways

The City has received comments and questions from residents regarding boats anchored in local waterways and is working with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) to address the issue. South Pasadena has a live-aboard ordinance in place aimed at prohibiting the same boat from being in a specific area for an extended period of time. Unfortunately, the City and the PCSO are constrained by the definition of a live-aboard vessel established by the State of Florida. Florida Statute 327.02(22) states the following:

“Live-aboard vessel” means:

- a) A vessel used solely as a residence and not for navigation;
- b) A vessel for which a declaration of domicile has been filed pursuant to s. 222.17; or
- c) A vessel used as a residence that does not have an effective means of propulsion for safe navigation.

According to the PCSO, the majority of the boats anchored in local waters do not meet this definition. They will continue to patrol the waterways and respond to complaints but must work within the frameworks of the authority provided to them by the State of Florida in addition to local ordinances.

The City is reviewing its ordinance for potential modification and is working with neighboring communities to evaluate how to enhance and coordinate enforcement. For more information about live-aboard boats, please contact City Hall at 727-347-4171.