



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alameda City Council Calls for Independent Review of Crown Beach Incident

At the June 7, 2011 City Council, the Alameda City Council unanimously called for an independent review of the tragic drowning incident at Crown Beach on Memorial Day.

In calling for the review, Mayor Marie L. Gilmore emphasized that an independent review is warranted in this case. "It is extremely important that we determine what happened and when it happened," she explained. "This was a heartbreaking event, and we understand that the public is deeply and rightfully concerned about what occurred on Memorial Day. An independent review will help us ensure that such a tragedy never happens in Alameda again."

The City is in the process of securing an independent expert to review all of the City's existing documents, policies, and protocols, as well as the City's response that day. The results of the review will be made available to the public as soon as they are available.

In addition, the City is developing a repository on its website at www.cityofalamedaca.gov that will contain the relevant documents and files regarding the Crown Beach incident. That website page, which will be available this week, will include such items as the Alameda Police Department and Alameda Fire Department dispatch calls and radio transmissions, transcripts of those calls and transmissions, Police Department and Fire Department timeline summaries of the event, and various

Fire Department documents related to their policies on rescue swimmers and the water rescue program.

In order to ensure the City is better prepared and able to respond to future water rescue incidents, the following steps have been taken:

- The March 2009 policy on rescue swimmers, which stated that Rescue Swimmers shall not enter the water for an active incident, has been repealed. In the future, the Fire Department Incident Commander on scene will now have the discretion to send rescue swimmers into the water as appropriate.
- Thirty members of the Alameda Fire Department have volunteered for the rescue swimmer training.
- The first 16 swimmers will begin their in-water training the week of June 13.

“This was a tragic situation for all involved,” Mayor Gilmore explained, “and the City is moving forward as quickly, thoroughly, and transparently as possible to ensure that we provide the highest level of public safety to our community.”

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