



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

**From:** Montre' Freeman, City Manager  
Deborah Malenfant, Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc.  
Sean Clark, EC-PC Parks & Recreation

**Date:** January 18, 2024

**Re:** Presentation / Consideration – Waterfront Park and Mariners' Wharf Park  
Infrastructure Improvements as Part of \$2 Million Allocation to Harbor Towns  
Cruises

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***BACKGROUND:***

In 2017, the discussion about a "Water Transportation in the Albemarle" project began, centered around a ferry system linking our region of communities via our connecting waterways, specifically Elizabeth City, Hertford, Edenton, Plymouth, Columbia, and the Outer Banks.

Startup funding of \$5 million was appropriated in the state budget several years ago. This funding allowed for the purchase of one dinner boat and the design and building of two Hysu Cat ferry boats.

Last year, the City Council approved a resolution in support of the Harbor Towns concept and support of efforts to obtain additional grant funding or appropriations.

This past fall, the General Assembly appropriated an additional \$10 million for infrastructure improvements in each participating Harbor Town. Each town was appropriated up to \$2 million for infrastructure improvements. [HERE](#) is a link to the Harbor Towns Cruises web page for information about the routes and ferry options being proposed.

Administration and City staff have been working with the Harbor Towns design team to come up with a plan for improvements on the Elizabeth City waterfront. The goals of the team are to improve and add waterfront and dock infrastructure and amenities that support the Harbor Towns boats (ferry and dinner boats) without disrupting the community's use of our parks and take into consideration existing use and future use of the parks for all – the community, Harbor Towns, Inc., and other recreational and transient boaters.

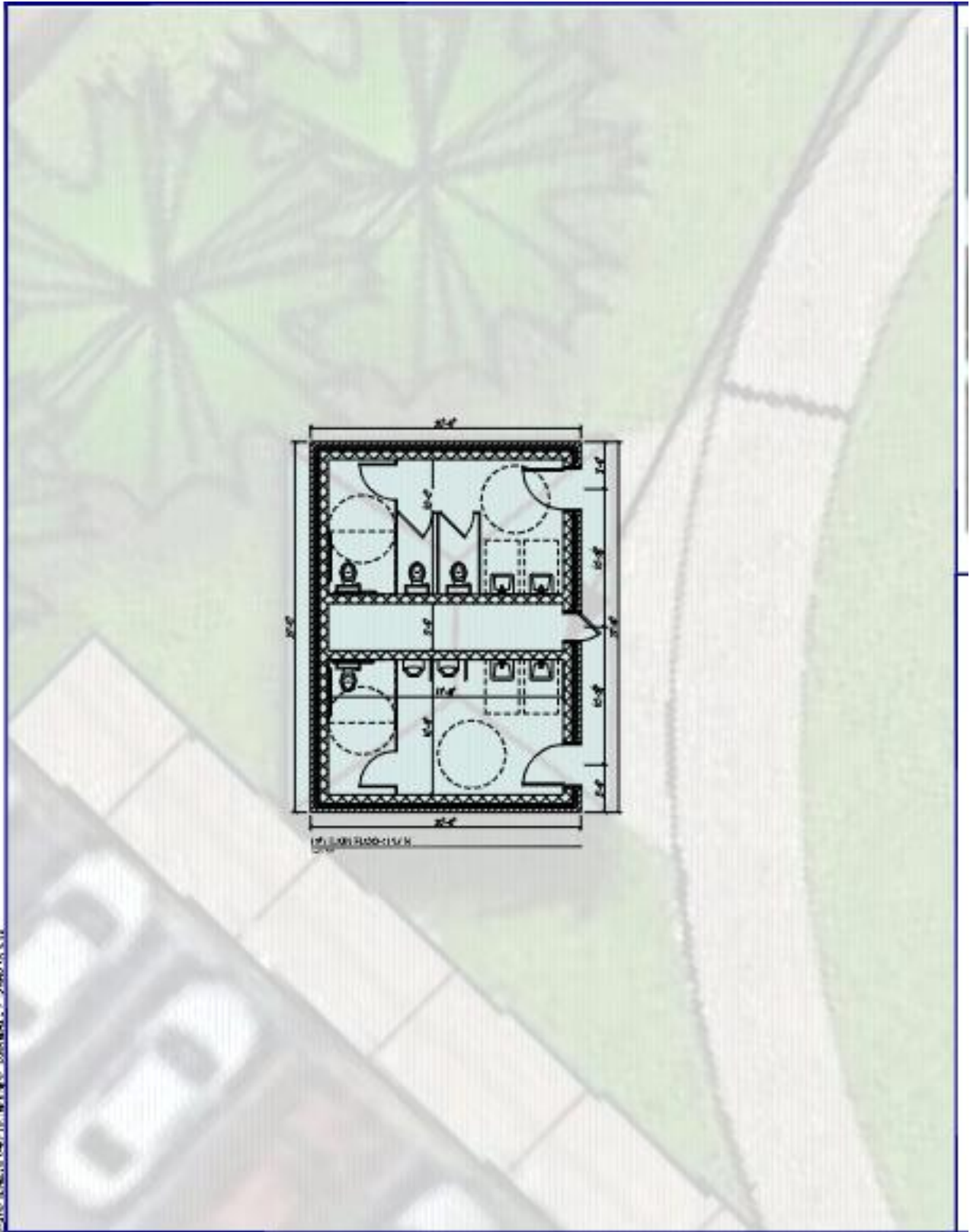
***ANALYSIS:***

Infrastructure improvements as part of the \$2 million allocation recommended in Elizabeth City by Harbor Towns, Inc. and City staff include:

- Construction of a bathroom facility at Waterfront Park.
- Extension and renovation of existing community pier at Waterfront Park for fast ferry dockage, construction of a 30' octagonal pavilion/gazebo structure on pier for waiting area, viewing, and fishing.
- Addition of community perimeter pathways at Waterfront Park.
- Signage and lighting at Waterfront Park.
- Improvements to and expansion of shower features at Mariners' Wharf Park restroom facility.
- Addition of a side door and roll-up concessions window at the Mariners' Wharf Park restroom facility.
- Addition of three new docks at Mariners' Wharf Park to accommodate larger transient and recreational vessels.
- Addition of electrical/water connections at existing boat docks at Mariners' Wharf (in a separately funding project, improvements to the existing docks/piers at Mariners' Wharf are planned).

Renderings/images are provided below and also at [THIS link](#).





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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is being presented for Council advisement and consideration of the suggested improvements to Waterfront and Mariner's Wharf Parks. If Council approve the

recommended infrastructure designs, this item will move forward to the Consent Agenda on the February 12, 2024 Regular Session for official vote.