

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS**

In Re: Rhode Island Fast Ferry, Inc.

Docket No. D-13-51

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF STEPHEN C. LAND

Harbormaster

Town of New Shoreham

1. Q. Please state your name.

A. Stephen C. Land

2. Q. Are you currently an officer of the Town of New Shoreham, Rhode Island?

A. Yes.

3. Q. What office to do you hold?

A. I am the duly appointed harbormaster of the Town of New Shoreham as well as a New Shoreham police officer.

4. Q. Please describe your qualifications.

A. My qualifications are as follows:

Town of New Shoreham Harbormaster 2010-present

Town of New Shoreham Assistant Harbormaster 2008-2009

Responsible for: safety and security of the harbors; mooring collections; supervising harbor operations; maintenance of vessels and facilities, commissioning and winterizing; enforcement of federal, state, local regulations; and welcoming transient visitors.

EDUCATION/LICENSES: USCG 100 Ton Master Inshore with STWC, TWIC, MROP, Towing Endorsement 2005-Present

M/V Carol Jean, First Mate, Interstate Navigation Co., Point Judith, RI April 2007 – October 2007 First Mate of 178 ft, 1,300-passenger ferry between Block

Island and Point Judith, including managing crew and overseeing vessel operations. Responsible for loading, safety, drills, and inspections.

M/V Hannah Glover, Captain, Salem, MA & Palm Beach, FL June 2006 – November 2006 Captain of 63-ft, 150-passenger USCG-inspected vessel used as charter boat in Salem, Marblehead and Boston Harbors and Palm Beach, FL. Responsibilities included managing crew, vessel operations and full maintenance.

Florida Yacht Sales & Charters, Sailing Commissioner, Miami Beach, FL 2001 Commissioning new boats, instructing new owners and testing, troubleshooting, and repairing technical and manual marine systems.

Block Island Maritime Institute & Block Island Club, Instructor, Block Island, RI 2001 instructing an after-school sailing program for students ages 6 to 16 as well as private lessons in one-on-one and group settings.

5. Q. Do you as harbormaster have concerns regarding the Rhode Island Fast Ferry, Inc. application.

A. Yes.

6. Q. Please describe those concerns.

A. As Block Island Harbormaster my greatest concern regarding the Rhode Island Fast Ferry proposed service in Old Harbor, Block Island is the overall issue of public safety. The addition of another ferry service into an already extremely busy, mixed use harbor should be of great concern to everyone. Old Harbor is currently crowded throughout the summer months (the only months the new service has proposed to run)

with swimmers, kayakers, pleasure boaters, wind surfers, paddle boaters, sailing, commercial fishing, lobster and charter boat companies, parasail and banana boat and for other recreational uses. These activities are combined with the several already established ferry services arriving and departing multiple times per day in and out of Old Harbor.

In addition, it is my understanding that the RIFF does not have an actual dock space at this time in Old Harbor. Reading the RIFF testimony, I can only assume that the RIFF intends to use an area on the north side of Ballard's Marina, which is not a commercial dock. This would prove to be a significant challenge to any captain trying to dock the proposed RIFF ferries in this small area. The distance currently between the Ballard's Marina dock and the Wronowski's to the North, where the New London High Speed Ferry docks is 154 feet. Realistically, given the size of the RIFF vessels, the current dock space is inadequate and will leave a portion of the vessels to extend beyond the end of the dock on the east side, and require approximately 38' to 40' on the north side. This would leave only a small area for the non RIFF ferries and other boat traffic to maneuver. Compounding the issue is the way the two docks are awkwardly angled, (in toward each other) increasing the difficulty of safely docking the proposed RIFF vessels.

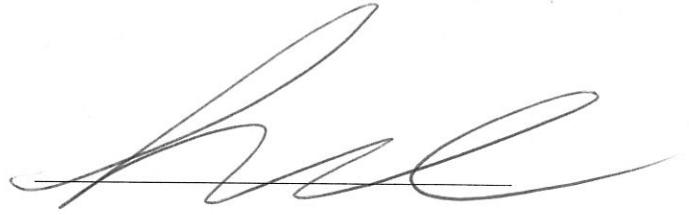
It is in my professional opinion, with many years experience as a captain and as the Block Island Harbormaster, that the addition of the RIFF ferries in the Old Harbor of Block Island would pose a serious public safety hazard.

7. Q. Does that conclude your direct testimony?

A. Yes.

Date:

2/3/15

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Land", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen C. Land,

Harbormaster, Town of New Shoreham