



Hampden County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Unit Saves 2 Longmeadow Teens From Connecticut River

9/24/2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Hampden County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Unit rescued two Longmeadow teens from the cold waters of the Connecticut River on Saturday morning (9/24/2022) as their boat took on water ahead of the Paper City Regatta.

Just before 8:30 a.m., Deputies Mark Gee and Chrystal Sanchez while aboard MPU Boat 2 were flagged down by the teens when their row boat began taking on water in the Connecticut River under I-391 across from the Medina Street Boat Ramp. The deputies got the teens and their sinking boat safely to shore, with just minutes estimated before the boat took on enough water to sink.

It appears a previous repair on the boat failed, causing it to take on water ahead of their planned participation in the event.

"This is exactly the kind of situation we started the Marine Patrol Unit to assist with," said Sheriff Nick Cocchi. "I couldn't be prouder of the deputies for springing into action and helping prevent a tragedy on what is supposed to be a fun fall day on the Connecticut River."

The Hampden County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Unit was launched in 2021 with money from the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund. It currently consists of three boats and 13 specially trained deputies who conduct proactive patrols on various waterways across Western Massachusetts.