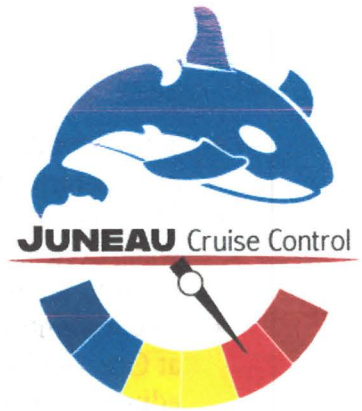


CBJ CLERK

JUN 02 2021

RECEIVED



June 2, 2021

Mayor Beth Weldon & Assembly Members  
City and Borough of Juneau  
155 S. Seward Street  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Mayor Weldon & Assembly Members,

We deliver these letters to the City Clerk today, instead of signed petition booklets on the three separate ballot initiatives. Adverse impacts of the cruise ship industry are widely felt and known in our community. Even active opponents of our efforts have acknowledged that limits are needed. We gathered a substantial number of signatures and have greatly enhanced our foundation of supporters, who will not be silenced.

As supporters of the initiatives volunteered time to gather signatures from Juneau voters, conversations revealed recurring themes:

- 1) Signers support the ballot initiative process and the opportunity to allow all Juneau voters to weigh-in by ballot. Some said they were specifically motivated to sign, even if not sure how they would vote, by the aggressive efforts to discourage this exercise of direct democracy.
- 2) Signers recalled prior public processes, initiatives, and elections they had participated in relating to cruise tourism and related impacts over the decades. And they shared their coping strategies; most often heard, "we avoid going to town in the summer." After years of resignation, they expressed gratitude for our efforts that they view as perhaps the only way to balance quality of life with cruise industry interests.
- 3) Potential signers considered - and feared - retribution as a consequence of signing. People of working age regularly asked, "Will my name be public?" We heard variations of: "I would love to sign. I support these measures, but signing could jeopardize my \_\_\_\_\_ [job, business, relations with friends, neighbors, relatives]." Those who signed without asking those questions skewed older, with less fear of adverse consequences.

Juneau residents have real issues with cruise tourism impacts in our community that require a strong show of leadership from the Assembly. We have waited for decades for CBJ leaders to act. The time is now. Juneau Cruise Control sought to amend the City Charter through initiatives because it is the one action available to citizens that cannot be undone by the Assembly without another vote of the citizenry. There are many options available to the Assembly, Juneau business community, and cruise ship corporations that do not involve amending the City Charter.

- The Assembly can adopt laws by ordinance that restrict days or hours that ships are permitted to use the harbor, using so-called “Blue Laws”.
- The Assembly can clearly state that they will not seek to amend the existing waterfront and Willoughby District plans, nor allow rezoning or leasing of CBJ lands to allow a fifth large cruise ship dock.
- The Assembly can direct the Docks and Harbors Department to not schedule ships at City Docks on Saturdays and after certain evening hours. Rates and fees can be adjusted accordingly to ensure the same or greater level of revenue despite reduced hours.
- The Assembly can increase the Port Development Fee on ships using the city docks to allow for full repayment of the revenue bonds in 2026. Early repayment allows more options for the city to manage cruise ships without risk of liability.
- CBJ officials can contract for an independent, objective study that looks at the optimal size of a cruise ship industry that would maximize returns and benefits *and* minimize costs to the community, including quality of life concerns, sustainability, and health and safety issues. The study could also evaluate what level of independent tourism would provide adequate employment and revenue for the local economy and workforce, and how to achieve that level in balance with limited optimal cruise ship tourism.
- Cruise ship corporations can voluntarily take actions, as a sign of respect to the community, including Norwegian Cruise Lines Holding withdrawing or suspending their plans for a fifth cruise ship dock.
- Using the Tourism Best Management Practices program, local tourism businesses can refrain from offering shore excursions for passengers from large cruise ships on Saturdays and after 6 pm to allow quiet evenings, perhaps not every evening, but on a predictable schedule.

The Assembly must prioritize addressing the tourism issue in a fair and comprehensive way that gives weight to all members of the community and addresses quality of life. If the Assembly continues to delay, there will be future citizen-lead actions to amend the City Charter. Cruise passenger numbers must not be allowed to continue to increase while awaiting study results.

The industry projects that 1.6 million cruise passengers will arrive in Juneau in 2022. We were stressed at 1 million passengers. Just as you regulate major developments and events through ordinance and permit conditions, so too should there be a process that prevents the cruise ship industry from abusing the resources, infrastructure, services, and good will of our community.

Respectfully,

  
 Karla Hart                      Doug Mertz                      Kim Metcalfe                      Susan Schrader

**Juneau Cruise Control Board of Directors                      juneaucan@gmail.com**

cc: Rory Watt, City Manager & Beth McEwen, City Clerk