
FW: Comments for the VITF

From: Susan Schrader
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 12:00 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@juneau.org>
Cc: Alexandra Pierce <Alexandra.Pierce@juneau.gov>
Subject: Comments for the VITF

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Please forward this email to all the VITF members and post it at the VITF website as soon as you can.

Thanks!

In 2009, my husband and I moved from Back Loop Road near Montana Creek to West Juneau for several reasons, not least of which was to escape the pods of 6 helicopters that flew over our house every 20 minutes during cruise season. We could no longer enjoy our home and property for 7 months of the year.

This year, I attended the VITF 2.0 meeting on March 12th: Flightseeing, Expert Panel. I admit I was amazed how the members of the VITF agreed, all around, that the issue of fixed-wing noise impacts downtown had so efficiently and effectively been resolved. Au contraire! Though it is early in the cruise season, the float planes arrive promptly in the morning (one day they began arriving *before* 8:00 AM) and continue throughout the day. One evening, the last plane finally departed at 8:30 PM.

Having lived in Juneau for 35 years, I fully appreciate that members of our community perceive noise from flightseeing differently. Mayor Weldon has told me that, even though her office faces the harbor, the floatplane noise doesn't bother her at all. May I ask if any of you on the Task Force *live* in West Juneau or Douglas? If you are home during the day, does the noise impact you? Between the helicopters coming and going, especially on days with a low ceiling, and the float planes landing and taking off, whether I'm sitting at my dining room table or working in my home office, the noise is mighty impactful! How ironic to move from the valley in an attempt to escape helicopter noise only to find myself living in an aerodrome.

Oh yes! I realize Juneau's grand "...historical use of fixed-wing aircraft as an integral component of the Juneau waterfront." Sec. 1 Q: Resolution 2170 (2002). Our town also has a history of the stamp mills of our mines banging out day and night. Would we tolerate that noise nowadays?? To use history as a justification for excessive, unnecessary noise downtown in 2026 is nonsensical.

Lastly, I respectfully request all CBJ staff and elected officials cease referring to the thousands of us Juneau residents who are impacted by cruise-ship visitor-related impacts as the "**opposition**." Instead, we request to be referred to as "**community advocates**." The vast majority of us, I am quite sure, are not opposed to ALL cruise ship visitation in Juneau. Those

of us who have lived here for decades recall the days when we welcomed 400,000 or so passengers and actually enjoyed showing off our spectacular borough to the visitors. We community advocates continue to be pro-tourism AND ALSO pro-cruise ship limits. With 1.7 million passengers descending on our community this season, it is difficult for me to grasp how any updated tourism recommendations coming from the VITF can possibly meet this portion of the Sec. 1A: Vision for Tourism from Resolution 2170 (2002): "...and making a positive contribution to the community's quality of life." Quality of life encompasses so much more than money.

Susan Schrader

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