

From: [Larri Spengler](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Clerks Office](#)
Subject: for Visitor Industry Task Force
Date: Sunday, June 14, 2026 1:47:15 PM

EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Greetings:

Please pass the below comments on to the Visitor Industry Task Force.

On April 29 I sent an initial set of comments to you. In case you did not see them, I will include them below again.

I would like to add to those that everyone I know (and no one I know wants to end cruise ship visits to Juneau) feels like even with the steps the city has taken the number of visitors each summer to Juneau is out of control. Anything that can be done to lessen the numbers of ships and people would be of benefit to both Juneau residents AND visitors to our community.

Shore excursions could surely be managed better, including being limited somehow. Tight seeing noise surely need not ruin the home-life of residents living under those paths and the number of whale watching boats surely need not ruin the much-valued on-the-water experience of Juneau boaters and fishers.

It also seems to me that tourism is not paying its way in Juneau, contrasted to the impacts it has on our residents. Is there a way to tax hours in port, or people per excursion, or anything like that, similar to a bed tax?

Here are my original, April 29 comments:

We have almost given up taking any out-of-town visitors we have (or ourselves, for that matter) to the Mendenhall Glacier, because exploring there among the crowds and crowds off the cruise ships is downright unpleasant. Similarly, we pretty much avoid downtown errands and pleasant downtown wandering for the same reason. Surely the concept of having one weekend day a week without these giant ships would add greatly to our ability to enjoy our own home town in the summer, and would not sink the

important parts of Juneau's economy that rely on tourism?

As a Thane resident, for the cruise ship season I face at least 15 or 20 extra minutes to go anywhere, given the masses of pedestrians and buses and shuttles in the downtown core. That is despite the excellent improvements made by way of the crossing guards and the chains and hedges that mostly keep people from meandering out on the only street through there whenever and wherever they please. I hope that your task force will voice strong support for the crossing guard program and such structural barriers.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Larri Spengler

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Larri Irene Spengler
