

From: [Rich Brenner](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Borough Assembly](#)
Subject: Rich Brenner's comments to the Visitor Industry Task Force comments, 15 June 2026
Date: Monday, June 15, 2026 10:08:40 PM

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Dear City Clerk, please post the following comments to the Visitor Industry Task Force website and send to the Task Force. Thank you! Rich

Dear Visitor Industry Task Force,

I live in Auke Bay and I am writing to express my extreme frustration regarding noise from flight-seeing helicopters during Juneau's short summers.

I do not live close to airport, and yet I am exposed to the near constant noise and pounding reverberations from flight-seeing helicopters. They cause my shelves to rattle, they result in me not being able to have a normal conversation with my neighbors, and—worst of all—I am unable to hear the birds when the flight-seeing helicopters are nearby, which increasingly seems like every moment of the day. If I can't hear the birds, they probably also can't hear each other.

Helicopter noise is detracting from the visitor experience and the quality of life for those of use who live here. Hiking the John Muir trail, the Spaulding meadows trail, or the West Glacier Trail during the summer I meet a variety of locals and visitors that are also exposed to and comment on the same intense noise that disrupts what should be a special experience in Southeast Alaska. Whether it's Auke Bay, the Mendenhall Valley, Lemon Creek, or other areas of Juneau, the loud and constant noise from flight-seeing helicopters is substantial and unnecessarily impact a huge swath of our community. Working in your garden after work or on weekends? Having a barbecue with friends? Reading a book on the porch? Good luck. We can and should do better.

The flight-seeing helicopters do not serve a vital transportation role in Juneau. By and large, they are not contributing to the mining industry, other industries, scientific research, or search and rescue. Instead, the vast majority of flights are noisily ferrying tourists to contrived dog sled tours on a melting glacier while simultaneously contributing to the very greenhouse gas emissions that are causing the glaciers to melt. We need and demand a change from our leaders.

Regarding the routes that hell-I-copters take: where is the thorough environmental analysis, the 60-day comment period, or the range of alternatives that we, the public, should have had the opportunity to weigh in on under Federal law? Small businesses and Juneau residents are shouldering the burden for decisions made by the FAA and the Juneau airport without the legally mandated input from the public and without considering impacts to these businesses and individuals. Until the law is followed, I ask that CBJ prohibit the sale of flight-seeing

helicopters on property owned by CBJ, with no sales on the city-owned docks.

In the meantime, please consider other, silent ways that visitors to Juneau can experience our amazing landscape while being able to actually hear nature. All over the world trams safely and quietly take visitors to the alpine. As Goldbelt has demonstrated, trams are profitable and visitors and locals love the experience. Juneau could have trams up every valley from Thane to Out the Road and beyond without inflicting pounding noise on people and wildlife. The visitor industry and locals would all benefit. Instead, a lack of vision has made us settle for a cheap amusement park when we could be providing an unparalleled experience that brings in more revenue.

As the apex predator of visitor impacts to Juneau, I ask that you please prioritize eliminating the noise from flight seeing helicopters. We all deserve to hear the birds during our short summers and the birds deserve to hear each other.

Best wishes,
Rich Brenner