

From: [Brian Flory](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [Borough Assembly](#)
Subject: Visitor Industry Task Force
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019 9:18:54 PM

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

Thank you for serving as members of the task force. The cruise industry has long ago passed from a healthy activity to what is now a suffocating presence and that presence was dominating the room and hallway for the last meeting on November 5th. It appeared to me that nearly everyone there was either a CBJ employee or a person with a direct interest in the excessive growth of the cruise industry. There were few of us present as residents with an interest in the life of the community outside of an exclusively economic or business view, and of those even fewer were allowed to participate. This may give the impression that your efforts are stacked against community members from the start. If your main purpose is merely to follow the agenda and the meeting timeline you will never be able to gather the input from the public that you need and we will not have the opportunity to exchange views with enough of you for either of us to really learn and understand. The nature of this problem is business and economic interests being bullies against the many of us who understand there is more to life in Juneau than just trying to make money. It would be best therefore if the Task Force allowed a healthier participation from those of us who understand this. Otherwise we will never go forward together.

Concerning the City Manager's presentation it should be noted that I certainly do not view Juneau's geographic location as "something we are happy about". With regards to cruise ship itineraries and port stops, it is in fact a curse of the worst kind. In the past, most of the ships depart Skagway and Ketchikan relatively early compared to Juneau and the residents and seasonal workers get A MUCH NEEDED BREAK. I have seen Ketchikan clear out by mid-afternoon, and Skagway often by 5 pm is empty. THAT is a blessing and something to be happy about. Because many of the ships have short transits when they leave Juneau, we are cursed with them staying longer, and we have helicopters hammering the air as late as 8:30 in the evening because of it. If I was at the table, we could have discussed this counterpoint.

We need a break from the ships and the crowds and activities they bring. This model of all day, every day, from April to October (because business wants it that way) is an abhorrent failure at this level of passenger numbers and a denial of why many of us chose to live here. We need to go back down to less than one million until the cruise lines can work out a schedule for residents to have our town and surroundings back on a regular basis for our own activities. One day off a week is certainly a good start, but there could be other forms of this as long as it can be counted on as a time when no ships are in, no fleets of helicopters are hammering the air, no buses clogging the roads, no platoons of hikers marching over the trails and whales may come up to blow without having to dodge a dozen boats.

In short, we need room to live here and the cruise industry is all about taking it away.

Thank you,

Brian Flory, River Road.
First resided here in 1988