

From: [Linda Vallie](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Visitor Industry Task Force
Date: Saturday, January 11, 2020 8:47:33 AM

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

Dear Visitor Industry Task Force,

Thank you for listening to all points of view related to the impact of the ever-growing number of visitors to our beautiful city.

Like many locals, I do my best to avoid going to the downtown area in the summer. But what I can't avoid is all of the helicopter noise. I live on Engineers Cutoff, and am directly under the flight path of the helicopters going to the glaciers. When I bought my house in 2007, all of that daily noise was bad enough, but now it is many times worse. The Juneau Empire reported in an article a couple of summers ago that there were over 5000 helicopter trips, and you know they fly out and back, so I had more than 10,000 flights go over my house. Yes, there are jets and float planes that fly over, but those are one and done; its a short period of time that they fly over. The helicopters travel in packs of 3 - 8, which means I'm listening to that noise for minutes at a time. Last summer I counted the helicopter fly-overs for a half an hour, and there were 31 helicopter flights over my home in that time frame. That is an average of one every minute. On busy days they sometimes start at 8 a.m. and go until 9 at night. They fly every day. The sound is so loud that i have to yell if I'm talking to someone on my deck. While indoors, it is difficult to hear what someone is saying on the other end of my telephone call, even with the doors and windows shut. Enough is enough!

Some possible solutions? What I'd really like to see is the whole helicopter scene moved to a place closer to the glaciers and away from the most populous part of our community. Perhaps there could be a staging area that helicopters fly to for the day, and that visitors are bussed to for boarding their helicopters.

Another idea is to impose no-fly days to give us a break! Probably on weekends when more people are at home.

At the very least, have the helicopters fly higher. That makes a big difference in how loud the sound is. Right now they are supposed to be 500 feet above my house, but that really isn't very high.

What I hear over and over about the issue of all of these visitors is about how much money this industry brings to our city. I understand that. I also understand that a lot of these visitors have saved for a long time in order to take a trip to Alaska, and how special this trip is to them. I am not opposed to visitors coming to see the beauty of this place! I am not opposed to tourism! But I do take issue with the idea that we can't put limits on the numbers of them, or that those of us who live here should just shut up and put up. I also put money into our community, and I want my dollars to count, too.

Sincerely,
Linda Vallie

Sent from my iPad