

## THANE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

4545 Thane Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 586-8277  
lspengler@ak.net



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Re: Thane Residents' Thoughts  
on Cruise Ship/Passenger Limits

January 15, 2020

Greetings, Visitor Industry Task Force:

The Thane Neighborhood Association board offered Thane residents a chance to give their views on whether the city should look for a way to limit cruise ship visitor numbers.

Therefore, we asked each of the 119 entries on the Thane e-mail list for their thoughts. We were not looking for a Thane consensus on this issue, but rather to pass on the results to the task force.

\* 31 responders said they supported the city looking at either ship or passenger number limits, either overall or per day.

\* 3 responders said they opposed such limits.

\* 1 responder said they had no view.

At the end of this letter are the comments Thane folks made in conjunction with their responses.

Sincerely,

Larri Irene Spengler  
Secretary, Thane Neighborhood Association

cc: Juneau Assembly

## THANE RESIDENTS' COMMENTS ON WHETHER THE CITY SHOULD LOOK AT LIMITING CRUISE SHIP NUMBERS, OR CRUISE SHIP PASSENGER NUMBERS

I would like to see CBJ allow the free market to regulate the visitor industry and I oppose efforts to put a cap on the number of visitors to our community.

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I support limits on cruise ships, to spread out the number of visitors evenly throughout the week and to keep the overall number of visitors ashore each day manageable and less intrusive.

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I would like the city to explore the feasibility of imposing cruise ship limits. HOWEVER, it may not be possible as the city may not legally be able to do this without a lawsuit by the cruiselines. The latter may feel it's "discrimination" of a specific tourism sector as opposed to airplane or ferry visitors. The legal implications would have to be dealt with by CBJ. What other American ports have been able to restrict cruise ships?

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Yes, Juneau should limit Cruise Ships and people. And, find a way to ease the burden of downtown traffic congestion, again with people and buses, etc.

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I would like the city to find a way to impose ship limits — though I'm really interested in limits on numbers/day of cruise ship visitors (because over time if ships continue to increase in size the real issue has to do with the numbers, timing and impacts of visitors, not so much the number of ships). I think that the CBJ should take a much more direct role in managing the impacts of visitors, both in order to protect the quality of life of Juneau residents and to protect the quality of the visitor experience. The tourism industry has proven throughout the world that it is incapable of self-regulation.

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I would like to see a limit on total passenger count.

Ship count is not a concern of mine. Frequently the smaller ships have higher-end passengers, or those looking for a more intimate experience. Six mega-ships, however, maybe someday even more capacious than they already are, would be horrific. The multi-mega-ship days this year caused buses to back up from the library past Taku Smokeries. I gave up on biking the south part of the sea walk, instead crossing through traffic to the mountain-side sidewalk.

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I would like the City of Juneau figure out how to put a cap on the tourists arriving by cruise ship into Gastineau Channel and being off loaded into the S Franklin / Marine Way corridor.

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Yes, a way to impose ship limits and demand plug in power while in port.

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I wish to see some form of limits on cruise ship visits and thus number of cruise ship passengers who will be in Juneau on a daily and seasonal basis.

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We agree that the city should impose limits on cruise ships visiting Juneau and that the number should be about half of the current arrivals. The city should also cater to smaller cruise ships and restrict the number of visitors (cruise ship passengers) per day.

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I like the discussions on ship limits. I'm comfortable with where things are it's obvious we are reaching saturation without serious discussion on impact. I want the discussion on projected growth that there be active community communication on impacts. I believe we can absorb and disperse but not with growth un-mitigated.

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I think imposing ship limits is complicated because not all ships carry the same # of people. I would talk more about imposing a limit on the number of passengers coming to town, not ships. If you have massive 6,000 passenger ships and consider them the same as a 300-passenger Un-cruise or Adventure Bound ship, they each still count as 1 ship... It would take 20 Un-Cruise ships to match one PanaMax ship....but..... yes, please lets put a cap on it here somehow for both the visitors and the residents' sake! (This comment is from Sandro Lane, who said: "Please use my name for my suggestions and thoughts."

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If it matters, I want VERY STRINGENT limits.  
And dock electrification.  
And an electric train to ship them all off to the glacier direct.

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I'm sending you a link I read yesterday about other countries that took more drastic actions recently and banned cruiseships entirely. Most was due to Panamax sized ships. You may already be acquainted with this info. But I'm sending anyway.

<https://www.ship-technology.com/features/cities-who-banned-cruise-ships/>

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I would like to see limits on numbers of passengers per year and ship limits per day. I don't think we can continue at the rate we are going.

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The increased number & size of cruise ships resulting in the congestion downtown plus the frequent plane and/or helicopter traffic over some areas of Juneau (Gastineau, many of the alpine trails) have degraded our quality of life (especially outdoors –noise in our yard, noise hiking in the alpine) to the point that we will likely end up retiring elsewhere. We love living on Thane Road and in Juneau, but the cruise industry has become a very negative presence for us during its increasingly long visitor season.

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I think the city should limit cruise ship numbers. I don't know what the upper limit should be but there is a point at which too many ships and tourists will make the city an undesirable place for everyone.