

From: [David Summers](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: CBJ Tourism Task Force Public Comment
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EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

CBJ Tourism Task Force,

What have I been doing for 20 years, and why should it matter to you right now?

For 20 years I've Owned and Operated cruise-based tourism businesses in the downtown area of Juneau, none of which could otherwise exist in a town of 30K people.

For 20 years 98% of all my gross sales from all my businesses are directly from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

For 20 years I've generated, collected, and paid a significant amount of CBJ Sales Tax from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

For 20 years I've paid CBJ Sales Tax on leased commercial properties that house my businesses, all with money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

For 20 years I've employed 10 - 15 people seasonally in Juneau. Most of them are locals, some of whom are learning how to work at their first job and many of whom return for as many as 10 years, so far. My jobs pay a fair living wage during the summer season, ranging from \$17 - \$25 an hour over the season. Ever heard of the "Gig Economy"? Many adults of all ages enjoy working seasonal jobs in inspiring locations, these are not low-end dead-end summer jobs, my employees are making real dollars and they enhance our community with expenditures of their money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

For 20 years I've paid CBJ Property Tax on a primary home, and in recent years an additional lot, with money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

For 20 years I've purchased supplies, inventory, and innumerable business related goods from local vendors and artists, all with money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

During the past 20 years several of my employees have attended and graduated from the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, paying associated local expenses, using money they earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

During the past 20 years my businesses have been members of Travel Juneau, the Downtown Business Association, and the Juneau Chamber of Commerce. I've paid dues, attended events, purchased raffle tickets, bid on and won silent auction items

and financially contributed to innumerable other projects all with money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

During the past 20 years I've been a member of local Juneau Rotary Clubs for at least 17 of those years, contributing time and direct cash dollars to important projects within the borough all with money earned from cruise ship passengers.

During the past 20 years I've volunteered service on the CBJ Appointed Docks & Harbors Board and been involved in various capacities on other CBJ issues, opportunities I was only afforded to volunteer by my cruise passenger income.

During the past 20 years I've volunteered to serve on many local non-profit boards, giving my time and money to make our community a better place to live. I augmented my board service by attending events, purchasing raffle tickets, bidding on silent auction items and financially contributing to innumerable other projects, opportunities I was only afforded to volunteer my time and dollars from money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

During the past 20 years, my two daughters were born in Juneau at Bartlett Regional Hospital. As they've grown I've paid for my daughters to take ski lessons at Eaglecrest Ski Area, paid for them to swim at both the Diamond Park Aquatic Center and Augustus Brown Swimming Pools, paid for them to play hockey and attend open skating at the Douglas Treadwell Arena, paid for them to use the Diamond Park Field House, all with money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

During the past 20 years my family and I have paid to fly in and out of the Juneau International Airport several dozens of times, all with money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

During the past 20 years I've spent my dollars locally living my life and contributing to the local economy as a consumer of all the things that any other citizen of Juneau might, including; eating at every local restaurant that exists and a few that don't anymore, drinking plenty of locally brewed Alaskan Brewing Company beers (and admittedly a few hard seltzers too), attending movies and live performance plays, shopped at local grocery stores, kept myself clothed, fed my coffee habit, bought fishing tackle and at least three boats that as anyone knows only generate even more local spending. The list of things any person such as myself purchases locally in the daily routine of life is much longer than I've listed, mine and my families' are all paid with money earned from cruise ship passengers docking in Juneau.

We live in a polite society where we embrace our fellow man into a proud community with welcoming open arms. Do I absolutely enjoy every aspect that every visitor to our shores brings? No, I do not. However, I do accept that perfection is not a reasonable expectation, especially from other people. Whatever occasional aggravations brought up by a few misanthropes pale in comparison to the wonderful opportunities to share our community on a seasonal basis, and get paid for it, with the world at large who only wish to experience what we who call Juneau home have come to love. I feel the most challenging task of your force is to give an ear to

the very few entitled complainers who will bring up even the most minuscule of slights. For this effort I thank you greatly, I likely could not as graciously as you endure the lack of vision from people who condemn that which provides so much for so many at so very little and only occasional inconvenience. I suggest your task is to educate them and for those that still only choose to be self-centered curmudgeons, may their Xtratufs spring a leak.

Kindly - David

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