

To the Tourism Task Force:

I am happy to have several new friends from the summer shops. But on the whole, the massive influx of large ships has been detrimental to Juneau. Please limit the number of ships and docks.

Some local businesses have profited, but many are threatened. When the large ships started coming, rents became so high that restaurants and art galleries were driven from S. Franklin. We have no large professional galleries for serious art anymore, which we used to have. The negative economic impact of this loss is rarely addressed. Our world-class mature artists do not have appropriate places to show, and the big galleries used to be a draw to downtown.

We need draws to downtown. S. Franklin used to be charming and beautiful. Now, S. Franklin is a ghost town in the winter and avoided by locals in the summer. Much of downtown now exhibits blight. It is sad to so often see my beloved downtown void of life in the winter. The ships threaten to ruin our local color.

The ships tell tourists not to go above the library because it is dangerous. They tell them not to shop at stores who have not paid them. They tell them the small jewelry shops sell fake jewelry. A friend with a small jewelry store told me about a big diamond sale she was making. Right before payment, a cruise director came in and pulled the customer out of the store. This is a small example of the bullying that the cruise ships do all the time to our town.

Beauty and quality of life are crucial to the happiness of a population. Our beauty and quality of life have been radically diminished, and we must work to reverse this. Here are 3 examples.

The aesthetics of my S. Franklin neighborhood are grossly affected by the lurid light show on the pier. If the statues could always be the peaceful light blue, they would be tolerable. Please make this happen! As it is, the neon raspberry, purple, teal and other unnatural colors make me turn my eyes away from the Channel. It is not fair to take away a pleasant uniquely Juneau night view.

We have an embarrassing trash situation on Gastineau Avenue and the staircases due to tourists' litter. I pick it up all the time. Also, especially in the fall when the store workers are packing up to leave, trash is left out for bears to drag up the stairs. I have to pick up a lot of bear trash myself, and this makes me angry. The City must educate the shop workers prior to the fall every year.

We have a huge problem with outdoor music played continuously under residences by Deckhand Dave's and Tracy's Crab Shack.

At first, the large ships played music outside. I know because I live above them. The residents hated canned music outside, so the City told them to stop, and they did. The City must tell these food establishments to stop playing outdoor music, even quietly. It is hell for the residents, some of whom are sick. And the rest of us can't walk peacefully on Gastineau Avenue, which is infuriating. Juneau has prided itself on its pleasant ambience, and we need it.

*Page Bridges 334 Carroll Way*