

From: [sharon.denton](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: CBJ Visitor Industry Task Force
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EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

Hello members of the Visitor Industry Task Force,

My name is Sharon Denton and I moved to Juneau in 1971 when there was a seedy downtown, amazing natural beauty, and 15,000 people. In the last 49 years Juneau has developed into a delightful place to live, and I hope it remains that way.

My husband and I with our business partner, Larry Spencer, purchased the run- down Senate Building in 1982, and remodeled it retaining it's historic footprint. I remember the crowds of tourists who entered the doors in the 80's and 90's, before North Franklin was developed into "Disneyland" as we like to joke. Even with the increased number of tourists coming through the doors, the crowds are still smaller than the memory of the 80's and 90's. Our retailers survive on the money they make in the summer. The online shopping has had a tremendous toll on all retail business in Juneau, and our residents often give excuses as to why they don't shop downtown. Tourism is vital to the success of the downtown businesses, so I am not in favor of placing a cap on the number of visitors.

However I do think this task force should look seriously at acquiring a circulator to move people from the congested areas of North Franklin to the Historic District. Unfortunately Greg Fisk, who was an advocate for the circulator, died way too soon.

I also volunteer for Travel Juneau and work at the cruise ship Visitor Center. I was surprised last year that the number of people coming to the Center were actually less than the previous year even though more people were coming to town. Maybe it was the days I worked or maybe there were more options for the visitors and they didn't need help. I honestly didn't feel the increase in people when I walked to the dock, and I always felt good seeing the happy faces of people on vacation.

Thank you for your efforts to make Juneau an approachable, lovely tourist town.

Sharon Denton