

Keri O'Brien

From: Cheri Smith
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 8:23 PM
To: Keri O'Brien
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Please read my position statement on our options for restricting the size of cruise ships into Key West into the record at tomorrow's meeting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Schulte <markdschulte@gmail.com>
Date: July 11, 2021 at 5:54:06 PM EDT
To: Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please read my position statement on our options for restricting the size of cruise ships into Key West into the record at tomorrow's meeting

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I was told I need to request of you to read my position statement into the record at tomorrow's special meeting regarding our options to limit cruise ships into Key West. The following is my statement:

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make it to attend tonight's council meeting in person. I am a resident and hospitality business owner of Key West. Please read my following statement into the record of tonight's meeting:

I commend you and the council for taking a serious look at our legal options to limit cruise ships in Key West despite Our Governor's corrupt actions of squashing our voting rights to protect our marine environment.

I support the protection of marine environment, our reef, and our fishing industry which relies upon the natural nursery the reef provides to allow young fish to develop and repopulate our ocean fisheries, and the tourism that our fishing industry brings to our island along with the jobs and livelihood it provides. The size and number of cruise ships that have been coming to Key West have been proven to damage our environment by the silt their propwash disturbs to the trash and other waste they dump into our waters.

I believe the governor's order does not prevent our city from charging exorbitant fees for the dockage of large cruise ships. We must exploit this feature and all other open opportunities to send a very very clear message to the cruise industry and the governor and Mr. Walsh that their ships and their exploitations of our environment are not welcome here.

The fact is that the minimal economic benefits they bring are dwarfed by the environmental and related economic damage they cause!

Feel free to read my statements into the record of today's council meeting. I hope we stand up for our way of life and our invaluable marine environment!

Thank you!