

From: John Wilkins <jwilkins@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Date: August 1, 2016 at 4:17:36 PM EDT
To: Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: FW: New Tour Coach Regulations

Cheri,

Here is a comment for commissioner to review.

John

From: Felipe Correa [<mailto:felipe@tourstoyou.net>]
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 4:08 PM
To: John Wilkins <jwilkins@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: New Tour Coach Regulations

Good Afternoon, John

I write to you regarding the upcoming changes to the tour bus operations in Key West.

First of all, I agree that something needs to be done to relieve congestion in the old town area. I have been affected by unprofessional tour operators who blatantly disrespect the pick and drop off area at the Mel Fisher Museum. I'm glad to see changes coming.

Here's some information about my tour operation:

1. In business for more than 14 years and have conducted close to 1,000 tours to Key West from Broward County.
2. Contract Academy Coach, which has the largest fleet in all of Florida. Over 300 coaches in the South Florida area alone.
4. Procure hotel accommodations for our drivers. This is something we do year-round, even during the very expensive high season. This is done for safety purposes, to have the best-rested driver during our return trip, and to park our coach in a safe, guarded area.

We are proud to conduct well-organized, respectful tours of the Florida Keys. We have developed deep roots in the island and enjoy many productive business relationships. It is very important for us to maintain our good standing in Key West, so please let us know of the new changes and of when they are to be implemented so we can comply to the letter of the law immediately.

Please feel free to contact me any time should you have any questions or need additional information.

Best Regards,

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Felipe Correa
Director, Tours To You! Inc
www.tourstoyou.net
www.ISOphotoART.com
(954) 756-2427
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From: Felipe Correa [<mailto:felipe@toustoyou.net>]
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 5:27 PM
To: John Wilkins <jwilkins@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Re: Tour bus changes

Thanks, John

I guess I'm mainly concerned with the drop off/pick up logistics. It usually takes us 10 minutes to unload all passengers (40+ every Wednesday) and we like to stage for the return at least 15 minutes prior to departure. Will that be ok according to the new regulations?

I'm quite familiar with the island and it appears that the new location's entrance/exit should be adequate through Grinnell St. Will that be the case, or another traffic pattern will be used for the new regulations?

When will the new regulations go into effect?

I guess this is pretty much it. We are not concerned about parking since we safely park at our hotel in new town.

I'm actually excited about the new drop off location. It'll help us save time by avoiding the mess that downtown can be at times, and it leaves our guests in an beautiful and active part of the city. I'm sure the businesses in the area will be happy to see the fresh set of pedestrian traffic. Rested, happy, eager to enjoy and spend :)

I love the Florida Keys and Key West. My marriage, my tour business, and my deep passion for photography are deeply influenced by this part of the world. I'm looking forward to the new chapter.

Thank you so much for allowing me to add my voice to this discussion.

Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions.

On Mon, Aug 1, 2016 at 4:38 PM, John Wilkins <jwilkins@cityofkeywest-fl.gov> wrote:

Felipe,

Felipe Correa
Director, Tours To You! Inc.
www.toustoyou.net
www.ISOphotoART.com
(954) 756-2427
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