

Carlene Smith

Subject: FW: Proposed Bicycle Tour Ordinance

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Key Lime Bike Tours** <keylimebiketours@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 22, 2013 at 12:07 PM

Subject: Proposed Bicycle Tour Ordinance

To: ccates@keywestcity.com

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I own the Key Lime Bike Tour, one of 4 licensed bicycle tours here in Key West. At the last planning board meeting on 4/18 the board passed a resolution on Recreational Rental Vehicles. There are provisions in section 18-357 that would greatly impact my business, and that I strongly object to.

The first part I have an issue with is "owners and operators of bicycle tour companies shall meet clients and exchange money at the business address". The bulk of my business is meeting clients at the cruise ship docks and walking them the few blocks to my business address at 119 Simonton street. If I am no longer able to meet my clients at the piers, like all of the other tour companies do, then I'm out of business. I have contracts with Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Disney, Regent Seven Seas, Oceania, Holland America and Norwegian cruise lines. The other cruise line that comes here is Carnival, and they are serviced by Southernmost Bike Tours, and their official business address is on Whitehead, not the piers, so they would be impacted also.

The second thing I have an issue with is "shall take no more than ten (10) clients per tour guide". Currently there is no official limit on tour sizes, just the suggestion that 15 be the limit. I bought my bike tour from the previous owners on 1/1/13 and have adhered to this number, which I think is a reasonable limit. To lower this number by 33% would be detrimental to all of the bicycle tours businesses. I have talked to Don Craig in planning and he said that he and his staff will review this number. It seems that they just agreed that 10 sounded good. The traffic study did not say that bicycle tours were impacting the traffic specifically, nor did the study suggest that the tours were too big. There is no reason to change the maximum number as far as I'm concerned, 15 is a reasonable number for safety of the riders and profitability for me. I am currently licensed to do up to 45 clients, and if you limit the tours to 10 then I would go from having a maximum of 3 groups of 15 plus 3 guides to 4 groups of 10 and 1 group of 5 with a total of 5 guides. What sounds better, 48 total bikes in 3 groups, or 50 total bikes in 5 groups? This would also cost me because I'd have to pay 2 more guides, and affect my guides because they get paid on a sliding scale, with 10 guests being \$75 and 15 being \$100, not to mention the additional tips they might make from 5 more people. I think this would also affect the tourists taking the tour. In the last few weeks I had 2 separate groups of 12 people, one a group in town

for a wedding, another a group of 8 13 year old girls and 4 of their parents in town for a bat mitzvah. With the new proposed limits I'd have to spit them into smaller groups, which may have resulted in my losing those groups.

I have talked to Don Craig, and he told me that he will review the limit of 10 per guide, and hopefully once it goes to the council the number will be back to the original 15.

I would love to know your opinion on this issue, and look forward to hearing from you. If you'd like to discuss this further I can be reached at [305-340-7834](tel:305-340-7834), or at this email address.

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