

January 15, 2014

Mayor and Commissioners:

If the Navy's Outer Mole is providing little to no profit to the City from cruise ship disembarkation, there is little to no reason to approve a new lease.

In fact, the denial of a new lease would send a message to the residents of Key West that the Commission has heard their voices-- speaking clearly and loudly by a 75 percent opposition to dredging for new cruise ships-- as well as their clear displeasure with the number of cruise passengers now being allowed on our narrow Old Town streets.

Let the Navy run the Outer Mole for military operations. By doing so, you will easily and painlessly reduce the number of cruise ships visiting our port. At the same time, you will reduce conch train and pedestrian traffic clogging our streets. And you will also attract smaller, more manageable ships to the City's own, profitable Mallory Pier.

Please deny the renewal of this lease. The citizens will respect you for it.

Michael Ritchie
Key West

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