

Sarah Taggart

From: Cheri Smith
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 4:37 PM
To: Sarah Taggart
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Cruise Ship Ordinance

Please post comment below to the cruise ship ordinance. Thank you.

From: Patti McLauchlin <pmclauchlin@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Cheri Smith <csmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Cruise Ship Ordinance

Patti mcl

Begin forwarded message:

From: Hope Casas <hcasas@historictours.com>
Date: March 25, 2022 at 1:05:13 PM EDT
To: Jimmy Weekley <jweekley@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Samuel Kaufman <skaufman@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Billy Wardlow <wardlow@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Gregory Davila <gdavila@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Mary Lou Hoover <mlhoover@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, Clayton Lopez <clopez@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Cc: Patti McLauchlin <pmclauchlin@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>, "Shawn D. Smith" <sdsmith@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cruise Ship Ordinance

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On the meeting of April 5th the city will be considering an ordinance that has the potential to dramatically raise taxes. Closing our harbor to so many ships will hurt our economy and those who pay the taxes.

Mole Pier income for the city was to fund Truman Annex Park upkeep. This loss of revenue falls fully on city taxpayers. The loss of income from Mallory dock from the small ships, now all but totally excluded by the ordinance will have to be made up by the Key West taxpayers dollar for dollar!

The revenue lost by city leaseholds in Mallory Square at 10% per dollar spent will have to be made up by local taxpayers.

The loss of shuttle dollars from the Mole Pier at 5% of gross sales and the loss of Trolley and Train tickets sold at 5% of sales will have to be made up by the local taxpayers.

We cannot continue to attempt to balance our city budget each year by raising parking fees. That will have to stop at some point. The city is dodging a bullet by not confronting Pier B owners I praise them for that. But closing the Mole Pier and Mallory dock is totally, from a business standpoint, foolish for the city.

The cumulative impact on the value of commercial property brought on by loss of pedestrian traffic on Lower Duval and Front Streets, as a result of less ship passengers, will eventually lower their values and reduce their taxes and the remaining taxpayers will have to make up that difference also.

Don't pass this foolish legislation as it will be challenged by the state for impairing the use of our historic harbor which was claimed by the United States two hundred years ago and has functioned to keep our Key West economy strong throughout our history. The referendum that was passed that brought this all on was done so based on a pack of falsehoods and lies. Do not pass this this proposed ordinance and compound that referendum. I urge the Chamber Board to be there and speak against this ordinance.

Most Sincerely,

Ed Swift, III