



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

October 22, 2013

Various Merchants

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Mayor McConnell and the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly, I wanted to reply to your correspondence of October 2.

In response to the various points raised in your letter, it is the intention of the City and Borough of Sitka to take the following actions in regards to the lightering of cruise ship visitors during the 2014 cruise season:

- 1) To the greatest degree possible and barring unforeseen circumstances, the Sitka Harbormaster will strive to ensure that cruise passengers who are lightered into Sitka are equitable distributed for the entire 2014 season between the Centennial Building facility and the O'Connell Bridge facility.
- 2) Given the clear superiority of the Centennial Building facility for the embarkation and disembarkation of bus passengers, visitors who are bused into downtown Sitka from the Halibut Point dock will utilize the Centennial Building facility exclusively.
- 3) The Harbormaster will make every effort to devise a facility usage schedule in advance which is not deviated from, barring unforeseen changes and difficulties.
- 4) The Municipality will consider ideas for better movement of visitors throughout downtown Sitka. At this time, however, the Municipality can not commit to the concept of a trolley or shuttle bus funded through passenger excise tax funding.

The dialogue that took place between Mr. Borland and the Interim City Administrator and Harbormaster on October 11 was an excellent starting point for opening a channel of communication on these important issues. It is my hope that we can continue discussing these issues further in the months to come.

Regards,

Mark Gorman
Administrator