



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

From: Thor Christianson, Tim Pike Assembly Members

Date: December 20, 2022

Subject: Vehicle fee ordinance.

Background

On December 13 the Assembly passed a sweeping change to how vendors and vehicles would be governed at the HCH. At the time a number of changes were suggested, but at the request of city staff, no changes were made in order to move the process along in time for next year's tourist season. This ordinance addresses one of those changes, the amount charged for large buses.

Analysis

As the current ordinance stands, the amount charged to smaller vehicles is significantly higher than for large busses. For less than 7 passengers the fee is approximately \$36 dollars per passenger. For 7 to 15 passengers, it is approximately \$33 per passenger. 16 to 29 works out to approximately \$26 per passenger. For large buses, and for this 60 passengers were used even though some of them hold more than that, it works out to \$16 per passenger. Since the negative impact of the large buses is greater than all the other vehicles having a comparable rate is justified.

Fiscal Note

This should double the amount that CBS collects on large buses.

Recommendation

Our recommendation is to pass this ordinance for the following reasons: 1) it has the large buses paying a comparable rate as the other vehicles, 2) it addresses the extra load the passengers put on the HCH infrastructure, and 3) it helps offset the extra cost of running HCH when there is a high tourist load.