



City and Borough of Juneau
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TO: Mayor Weldon and Assembly

DATE: May 21, 2021

FROM: Rorie Watt, City Manager

RE: Resolution 2955 - Port Agreement Authorization

Over many months, the representatives of the cruise ship ports in Southeast have been meeting with each other and cruise ship industry representatives to contemplate how and when cruise ship visitation will recommence. Port communities represented include Juneau, Hoonah, Skagway, Ketchikan and Sitka. The group has included Mayors, Managers and operators of private docks.

With new CDC guidance that allows for cruise ship sailings and with the imminent approval by the President of the PVSA waiver, a return of cruise ships to the region this summer has become a reality. CDC has provided cruise ship companies two paths for a return to service in the US, vaccinated cruises and cruises that will undergo simulated voyages to determine the efficacy of proposed COVID19 measures.

Resolution 2955 only contemplates vaccinated cruises.

CDC also requires that cruise line companies enter into port agreements with communities that they propose to visit. Understanding the complexity of five ports trying to create agreements with five or six cruise ship companies led to the development of a master regional agreement approach. While not entirely complete, the first draft agreement is included in the packet. Exhibit 1 would be CBJ's Risk Mitigation Measures. The other Exhibits are specific to the lines and the shoreside screening services provided by Cruise Line Agencies.

Resolution 2955 and would allow the Manager to enter into Port Agreements as required by CDC for vaccinated cruises under the following conditions:

1. Scheduling provided to the Manager – As you can imagine, the cruise companies are rapidly trying to figure out how to deploy ships, sell itineraries, obtain vaccinate crews, etc. At this point the draft schedule has six large ships, with two two-ship days and two one-ship days. Smaller ships may also visit the smaller docks. My intention is to update the Assembly and obtain consent if this schedule changes.
2. Ships to Comply with CDC Vaccination cruise standard – The initial CDC language for vaccinated sailings required 98% of crew and 95% of passengers to be vaccinated; that requirement was subsequently updated to 95% for both groups. The Resolution language authorizes the Manager to have port agreements that match subsequent CDC updates to the vaccination standard.
3. Other Conditions – The Resolution would require the Manager to impose conditions at the direction of the Assembly or the EOC. If the COVID19 situation unexpectedly deteriorates, the conditions would necessarily change.

In reality, with the very high vaccination standard, the port agreements have become a somewhat perfunctory step in large complicated process.