



BAR HARBOR AND MOUNT DESERT POLICE DEPARTMENTS CRUISE SHIP OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 8/2/2022

JAMES WILLIS – POLICE CHIEF

CHRISTOPHER WHARFF – SPECIAL SERVICES LIEUTENANT

AGENDA

Council Policy on Cruise Ship Tour Buses and Tour Vehicles

Police Department Policy on Cruise Ship Responsibilities

Operational Changes Made This Season

Impact Changes Have Made on Current Operations

Recommended Management Tools for Consideration

CURRENT COUNCIL POLICY

Bar Harbor Town Council Cruise Ship Tour Bus and Tour Vehicle Policy



Current Pier Traffic Set-up According to Policy- Ships over 2,000 Passengers

***** There will be no changes to Town Pier operational set-up for 2022**

BAR HARBOR / MOUNT DESERT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Current Harborside Pier Traffic Set-up



OPERATIONAL CHANGES FOR 2022

- Single Ship Days
 - Ships are tendering to Harborside Pier rather than Harbor Place (adjacent to the Town Pier)
 - Only one ship has utilized Harbor Place Pier so far this year, this was a two ship day
 - Increased Bus and Vehicle Capacity working with Ocean Properties on Private Property use
 - Vehicles are staging for no more than 15 minutes in public parking spaces
 - No street shut down, both lanes of traffic on West remain open all day
 - Up to three buses can be loaded at one time, two on street, one in Harborside Driveway along with all other small tour vehicles. In early morning departures we have loaded and dispatched five buses from Harborside, two on street and three in the Harborside Driveway.
 - Preferable location for pedestrian safety, they do not depart tenders directly onto public way, there is more room to stage people, no traffic congestion in the pedestrian area.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES AT HARBORSIDE PIER

- Ships requiring more than three buses to be loaded at once throughout the day cannot operate there due to the space limitations in the driveway.
- Sidewalk can become congested due to passengers queuing for tours
- Roadway can be narrowed due to size of tour vehicles in passenger vehicle parking spaces
- Backing large tour vehicles into the Harborside Driveway can be problematic with heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the area
- Another private tour company operates in this space, this can cause congestion problems for both operations

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT TOOLS

- Town Ordinance- The town could potentially draft an ordinance requiring a licensing process for tour operators, giving the Town more operational control over number of buses in use allowed on public property, number of tours per day dispatched from public property, and full control over which public location will be used to dispatch tours.
- Council Policy Re-write- Rewrite of the Council Policy on Cruise Ship Tours in order to add the above operational control measures.



QUESTIONS?