

MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR JENSEN AND BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
FROM: KARL HAGERMAN, EOC INCIDENT COMMANDER 
SUBJECT: BOROUGH MANDATE #5 HARBOR ACCESS – EXTENSION REQUEST
DATE: 5/15/2020
CC: STEPHEN GIESBRECHT, MANAGER
DEBRA THOMPSON, CLERK

On April 20, 2020, the Assembly unanimously approved Mandate #5 pertaining to the Borough harbor facilities and the cruise ships allowance to dock and disembark in Petersburg. The mandate is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2020.

The EOC and Health Officer believe that cruise ships still present a large health concern for the residents and businesses in Petersburg. State mandate 10, concerning interstate travel and the need for all travelers to quarantine for 14 days is still in place and if this mandate is extended, there is no reasonable way for a cruise passenger that has recently come into Alaska to effectively quarantine and still be allowed to disembark in Petersburg.

Additionally, if Mandate 10 is not extended, there is high concern that without a quarantine in place, out of state travelers will have direct access to our local population and that just one asymptomatic visitor could infect many in our town and cause an outbreak that could easily overwhelm our local health care facility and staff. More so, if an infection impacts our processing workforce or the fishing fleet it could be catastrophic to Petersburg.

Summer is when Petersburg's commercial fishing and processing is at its highest and it is too great of a risk to our largest industry to allow out of state visitors to jeopardize our struggling economy, or impact our local population's health just as we are dealing with the reopening of the State.

For these reasons, and out of an abundance of caution, I recommend the extension of local Mandate #5 to the end of June. The mandate should again be considered for extension at that time. Thank you for your consideration.