



Port of Juneau

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From: Docks & Harbors Board
To: City & Borough of Juneau Assembly
Date: June xth, 2023
Re: Downtown Safety Railings

The Docks & Harbors Board is concerned that CBJ is exposed to unnecessary risks due to the Seawalk not fitted with safety railings from the CT Dock to Marine Park. Prior to construction of the new cruise ship berths in 2017, the face of the dock was a working waterfront in which vessels moored tightly to the bollards along the Seawalk. This created an impractical situation to install and maintain guard/safety railings. With the new pontoon float design and the vessels moved well-off the timber wharf, there is no justification to leave the Seawalk unprotected from potential pedestrian falls of 30+ feet into Juneau Harbor.

Since the completion of the new cruise ship berths, Docks & Harbors has submitted annual Marine Passenger Fee requests for safety railing as a need along the downtown waterfront. As we experience more cruise passengers with greater concentration along the Seawalk, Board members are becoming more apprehensive that this is an exposure which should be mitigated soonest. There is also bona fide need to protect Juneauites who frequent the docks at all hours and during the off-season when weather is less forgiving.

The Board understands a desire to maintain the historic aesthetics of the existing bull rail. However, we encourage examination of the newly constructed safety rails near Marine Park and consider that guardrails provide a good public safety benefit (particularly for elderly and mentally impaired). This design adds a visually pleasant safety element that functionally allows visitors to lean on the top rail and watch the active waterfront.

Docks & Harbors staff estimates that 1300 linear feet of safety rail is needed at a cost of \$2M. The Board is contemplating directing staff to execute \$500K of Dock Enterprise Fund Balance to construct a phase prior to the CY24 cruise ship season.

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