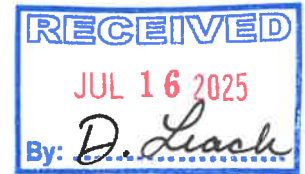


**Mackinac Island  
Cottagers Association**  
Established 1962



July 15, 2025

Mackinac Island City Council  
7358 Market Street  
Mackinac Island, Michigan 49757

Dear City Council:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mackinac Island Cottagers Association. I recently had communication with Brad Chambers regarding taxi pricing, asking for relief on some situations that directly impact our members. A copy of a letter to Brad is attached. In a subsequent conversation, he stated that any fee adjustments required approval by the City of Mackinac Island or the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

The main issue is that the taxi company places a minimum based on the number of passengers. Those of us in the Woodbluff area are charged both a 3-person minimum as well as the higher rate based on location. The minimum charge is certainly understandable when the taxi is otherwise empty. But it is not unusual for the taxi to be full with passengers for Stonecliffe, Woods Restaurant, and Town Homes prior to dropping us off at our homes just a small distance away. A minimum charge does not seem fair in those circumstances, particularly since the additional passengers have added considerably to the length of the ride. This same situation occurs in the Annex and on both Bluffs

Another issue is that residents often wait a significant amount of time for taxis or have to rearrange schedules because of priorities given to cruise line or bus tours. Some report having to wait more than an hour after arriving by boat. Many residents feel as if they are being overlooked.

One suggestion to address these issues is to establish a resident rate like the ferry lines have. Many residents have an account number so an automatic discounted rate could be easily handled. Even better might be a resident ID card with picture.

Another suggestion is that the city could establish a local shuttle that regularly makes "rounds" around certain neighborhoods with published times. This would be like the city sponsored "senior shuttle" that has become very popular for the senior residents who reside year-round for necessary trips between November and April.

It is nice that Mackinac Island is consistently in the top 5 tourist destinations in the country, but with that success comes some hardship for those of us who reside seasonally or year-round. Perhaps the hardships of higher taxi prices, longer wait times, and longer rides can be minimized by changes to the current policies.

# Mackinac Island Cottagers Association

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I have sent this same letter to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, because as Brad Chambers implied, it is either or both the City of Mackinac Island and the State Park Commission that must approve taxi policies. I hope that you will respond with some good news in this regard. Our next cottagers' meeting is Saturday August 23, 2025. So if possible, I would like to have some good news to take to my membership at that time.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Victoria Riel  
President  
Mackinac Island Cottager's Association

**Victoria Riel**  
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Mackinac Island, Michigan 49757  
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March 16, 2025

Mr. Brad Chambers  
Mackinac Island Carriage Tours  
PO Box 400  
Mackinac Island, MI 49757

Dear Brad,

I am writing to you hoping that we could set up a time to discuss the taxi service for the 2025 season. I am the current president of the Mackinac Island Cottager's Association as well as a former West Bluff Cottager (Bankard) since 1951, and now a year-round resident living in the Sunset Forest area.

Having lived on the island all these years, I have witnessed the growth and changes that the island has experienced. Many great things have evolved on the island as it has adapted to the influx of new construction and desirability as a vacation destination. The Tourism Bureau has done a remarkable job of promoting the beauty and uniqueness of Mackinac Island. With our upgraded airport, expanded ferry schedules, and more and more cruise ship arrivals, the island is flooded with thousands of visitors every hour.

Those of us that live here either seasonally or permanently have unwittingly been forced to bear the brunt of the increased congestion from this influx. We often wait on the dock for over an hour for a taxi to take us home with our groceries while taxis are diverted to carry cruise ship passengers to the Grand Hotel buffet. Similarly, taxis wait to collect passengers from all around town so they are full to make the trip to our area. Of course, we understand this frees up other taxis to make the quick shuttles up and around town and to the Grand.

In the past, we could call for a taxi to meet the boat when we arrived and now that does not seem to help. Because we live in the Stonecliffe area, we are charged a higher level fee to be taken to our location, which we all agree is appropriate. However, what does not seem appropriate is invoking the three person minimum charge when the taxi has 12 passengers to Stonecliffe, the new Townhomes, the Woods restaurant, and the condos.

I would like to meet with you at your convenience to discuss: (1) consideration of establishing a resident pass or resident rate for those of us that live and work on the island versus a tourist rate for the visitors, and (2) drop the minimum passenger requirement when the taxi transports more than your party.

Please let me know if we can meet briefly to discuss my requests. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely



Victoria Riel