

August 21, 2024

Dear Mayor Doud and City Council
Members:

I hope all of you are well.

My name is Susan Odgers and I live in
Traverse City, Michigan.

My husband and I honeymooned on
Mackinaw Island in 1982 and have returned
to the island several times a year, every
year, since then. This includes during the
pandemic. Our 40th wedding anniversary
announcement and photo were in the
Town Crier in 2022.

Being able to easily return to our
honeymoon spot was one of the many
reasons we selected the island.

I am a person who has used a manual

wheelchair, full-time, for the past 48 years. As you can imagine, aspects of visiting the island can be difficult for a person with a disability.

Over the years, I've seen the island's ADA access improve. Your Mackinac Community Foundation director, Stephanie McGreevy, is a longtime friend and supporter of disability rights. We've had many wonderful conversations about services on the island.

Thank you for your work in this regard. I look forward to helping you continue these efforts.

My main purpose in writing this correspondence now has to do with the ferry service to the island. For the majority of our trips to/from the island, we've used Sheplers. I have tried all of the varied ferry

services.

This May we visited the island and used the Mackinaw Island Ferry Service(MIFS). Of all of our trips to and from the island, it was the best, most accessible ride and with the kindest, most helpful staff. It was also the most secure and safe I've felt on any Mackinaw Island ferry.

I hope MIFS returns to operating, offering passengers a choice in their ferry service.

I'm grateful in this time of need, that Sheplers is able and willing to help all passengers travel to and from the island.

This is a perfect time for Sheplers to improve their service to their many passengers with disabilities. ADA compliance is not the equivalent of being bumped down a flight of stairs in one's

wheelchair to the lower level or riding with the staff in the stern. Neither are safe and separate treatment is not equal.

Thank you for your attention.

With gratitude,
Susan Odgers

City Clerk

From: S Odgers <odgers_s@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 11:11 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: Please share w/mayor and city council for 8/21 meeting.
Attachments: Notes_240820_230512.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
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Hello, Danielle Leach:

I hope you and yours are well.

Trista in the mayor's office gave me directions as to how to handle this matter.

Please let me know that you received this email. I was told the mayor and city council will have copies to read before the meeting 8/21 and that it will be read into the record.

With gratitude for your assistance,
Susan Odgers

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer