

**Sgroi, Jeanne**

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**From:** Aubut, Caitlin on behalf of - Planning Division  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:14 AM  
**To:** Sgroi, Jeanne  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Prohibit Large Cruise Ships in York County

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**From:** Ronnie Weston <107perdue@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 9, 2024 8:09 PM  
**To:** - Planning Division <planning@yorkcounty.gov>; Web Mailbox for BOS <bos@yorkcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Prohibit Large Cruise Ships in York County

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

Recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. This falls short of a prohibition of ocean-class cruise ships leaving a loophole to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown.

If allowed, these large ships will change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why over 7800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown.

The organization Preserve Yorktown has documented the detrimental impacts of this industry and published principles of responsible tourism for Yorktown ([//PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement](http://PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement)). I ask that we follow these principles and prohibit all large ocean-class cruise ships in York County.

Thank you  
Ronnie Weston  
107 Perdue Ct, Yorktown, VA 23692

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**Sgroi, Jeanne**

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**From:** Aubut, Caitlin on behalf of - Planning Division  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:14 AM  
**To:** Sgroi, Jeanne  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Prohibit Large Cruise Ships in York County

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**From:** William Diggs <wwdpjd@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 5:01 AM  
**To:** - Planning Division <planning@yorkcounty.gov>; Web Mailbox for BOS <bos@yorkcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Prohibit Large Cruise Ships in York County

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

Recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. This falls short of a prohibition of ocean-class cruise ships leaving a loophole to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown.

If allowed, these large ships will change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why over 7800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown.

The organization Preserve Yorktown has documented the detrimental impacts of this industry and published principles of responsible tourism for Yorktown ([//PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement](http://PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement)). I ask that we follow these principles and prohibit all large ocean-class cruise ships in York County.

Thank you  
Respectfully Submitted  
Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Diggs  
Seaford Virginia

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## Sgroi, Jeanne

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**From:** Aubut, Caitlin on behalf of - Planning Division  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:14 AM  
**To:** Sgroi, Jeanne  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] PROHIBIT Large Cruise Ships in York County

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheryl Porter <nothoney@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 8:08 AM  
To: - Planning Division <planning@yorkcounty.gov>  
Cc: Web Mailbox for BOS <bos@yorkcounty.gov>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PROHIBIT Large Cruise Ships in York County

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

Recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. This falls short of a prohibition of ocean-class cruise ships leaving a loophole to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown.

If allowed, these large ships will negatively change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why more than 7,800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown.

The organization Preserve Yorktown has documented the detrimental impacts of this industry and published principles of responsible tourism for Yorktown ([https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2f%2fPreserveYorktown.org%2fposition-statement&c=E,1,dqkQZq4InCce4KF4yXdJ7vxFmexrEiARoDyAtYOkb-FhKdE9HiI5JU6yt6YednwNVY8lFmlAohTC414EJF42C5x-T\\_ZhjsZvb-LlBqPcVzWRhj4yGNg,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2f%2fPreserveYorktown.org%2fposition-statement&c=E,1,dqkQZq4InCce4KF4yXdJ7vxFmexrEiARoDyAtYOkb-FhKdE9HiI5JU6yt6YednwNVY8lFmlAohTC414EJF42C5x-T_ZhjsZvb-LlBqPcVzWRhj4yGNg,&typo=1)). I ask that we follow these principles and prohibit all large ocean-class cruise ships in York County.

Thank you,  
Sheryl Porter  
201 Barham Boulevard  
Yorktown, 23690

Sent from my iPhone

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**Sgroi, Jeanne**

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**From:** Aubut, Caitlin on behalf of - Planning Division  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:14 AM  
**To:** Sgroi, Jeanne  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Prohibit Large Cruise Ships in York County

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**From:** Lea Gryk <leag4689@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 8:21 AM  
**To:** - Planning Division <planning@yorkcounty.gov>; Web Mailbox for BOS <bos@yorkcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Prohibit Large Cruise Ships in York County

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

Recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. This falls short of a prohibition of ocean-class cruise ships leaving a loophole to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown.

If allowed, these large ships will change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why over 7800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown.

The organization Preserve Yorktown has documented the detrimental impacts of this industry and published principles of responsible tourism for Yorktown ([//PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement](http://PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement)). I ask that we follow these principles and prohibit all large ocean-class cruise ships in York County.

Thank you,  
Lea A Gryk

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## Sgroi, Jeanne

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**From:** Aubut, Caitlin on behalf of - Planning Division  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:44 AM  
**To:** Sgroi, Jeanne  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Please Prohibit Large Cruise Ships

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**From:** Robert Hodson <robert.f.hodson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:35 AM  
**To:** - Planning Division <planning@yorkcounty.gov>; Web Mailbox for BOS <bos@yorkcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Prohibit Large Cruise Ships

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

I have read the zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking and have concerns. First and foremost, this leaves the door open to these large ships in the future. Many citizens have expressed at BoS meetings that this is not the right thing to do in York County. It will be character altering for the community just like it has been at other places like Bar Harbor, Sitka, Juneau, Charleston, and many other places. 7,876 people have signed a petition stating that we want a prohibition on these ships, not a path for a special permit with rather weak requirements. We are dealing with multi-billion dollar companies that have recently stated in the press that they still want to pursue a port in the York River. This application to the Planning Commission made me feel like the County has not heard what citizens (and several businesses) are saying. We have been waiting for positive change to protect us from this industry for over 8 months since Tom Shepperd asked for options to stop these ships, and this is what comes out just before the holidays with little time to respond. Personally, I find it very disappointing and disheartening after all the effort the community has made to voice our position to the County and its leadership. Please implement regulations to prohibit the ocean-class cruise ships in York County.

Sincerely,

Bob Hodson, Yorktown

P.S. I would be more than happy to discuss the reasons (over-tourism, pollution, business practice, etc.) that this is not the right tourism model for us. My phone is 757-570-9251.

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**Sgroi, Jeanne**

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**From:** Elizabeth Jacques Wilkins Van Montfrans <vanwilk@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 4:53 PM  
**To:** - Planning Division  
**Cc:** Roane, Stephen; Noll, Sheila S.; Holroyd, Douglas; Drewry, M. Wayne; Shepperd, Thomas  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Zoning Amendments re Ocean Class Cruise Ships

Members of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing to oppose the proposed zoning amendments as written, in the firm belief that merely requiring a Special Use Permit leaves York County as vulnerable to the presence of these large ships as we were when Princess first pounced on our town. It seems that all it does is create an administrative hoop that the cruise industry could sail through all too easily (and they have tons of money to throw at such minor obstacles). I'd be interested to know the permit denial rate for applications by businesses, but I imagine it's quite low - please correct me if I'm wrong. And as we all know, these determinations can be very subjective.

Furthermore, the prospect of having to engage in substantive protest every time such an application is made is not tenable for our citizens. York County spoke en masse, loudly and clearly against these huge ships in the York River, to the point where the County Attorney was tasked by the Board with detailing what options were legally available to keep them out. Where are the options, other than requiring a special use permit? Such extraordinary impact as would be felt if these ships were allowed here can't reasonably be compared to more routine applications, and call for more protective measures. Please revisit this issue and present more appropriate options for refusing these massive "floating cities" in York County.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Wilkins  
228 Church St.  
Yorktown, VA

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## Sgroi, Jeanne

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**From:** Lisa Ott <fairyspiri1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 5:53 PM  
**To:** - Planning Division  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

- Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

Recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. This falls short of a prohibition of ocean-class cruise ships leaving a loophole to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown.

If allowed, these large ships will change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why over 7800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown.

The organization Preserve Yorktown has documented the detrimental impacts of this industry and published principles of responsible tourism for Yorktown ([PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement](http://PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement)). I ask that we follow these principles and prohibit all large ocean-class cruise ships in York County.

Sincerely concerned,

Lisa Ott

## Side Section

- Starred
- Contacts

More

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## Sgroi, Jeanne

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**From:** Christoph Leemann <christoph.leemann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 6:13 PM  
**To:** - Planning Division; Holroyd, Douglas; Noll, Sheila S.; Drewry, M. Wayne; Roane, Stephen; Shepperd, Thomas  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Prohibit Large Cruise Ships in York County

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

There isn't much beach front in York County which makes the little bit that exists particularly precious. I have seen in some Florida ports what the impact of docking ocean-class cruising ship is: plain disgusting. Anyone who loves and cares about York County and the York river cannot possibly want anything of that kind coming here.

Recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. This falls short of a prohibition of ocean-class cruise ships leaving a loophole to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown.

If allowed, these large ships will change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why over 7800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown.

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([https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2f%2fPreserveYorktown.org%2fposition-statement&c=E,1,DV2Rqpu4yuPJnlmX4BwEXwghtrHPyrfkxUiLTmqCDP2VueF\\_SNwcd5xV\\_VQkKc-cN-E10JXyLz-UJ6ZLKyS7AqkufsY7WiLYoEHVuAdBJ2j0z4Q,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2f%2fPreserveYorktown.org%2fposition-statement&c=E,1,DV2Rqpu4yuPJnlmX4BwEXwghtrHPyrfkxUiLTmqCDP2VueF_SNwcd5xV_VQkKc-cN-E10JXyLz-UJ6ZLKyS7AqkufsY7WiLYoEHVuAdBJ2j0z4Q,&typo=1)). I ask that we follow these principles and prohibit all large ocean-class cruise ships in York County.

Thank you,

Christoph Leemann

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## Sgroi, Jeanne

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**From:** maureen moss <maureenmoss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 6:23 PM  
**To:** - Planning Division  
**Cc:** Holroyd, Douglas; Roane, Stephen; Noll, Sheila S.; wayne.drewery@yorkcounty.gov; shepperd@yorkcounty.com  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Docking of large ships in Yorktown

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

Recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. This falls short of a prohibition of ocean-class cruise ships leaving a loophole to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown.

If allowed, these large ships will change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why over 7800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown.

The organization Preserve Yorktown has documented the detrimental impacts of this industry and published principles of responsible tourism for Yorktown ([https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2f%2fPreserveYorktown.org%2fposition-statement&c=E,1,QGlvuY1FIEHcJWN5eCTqrkn\\_aUYtReEJ8Zf000\\_cdopH5eR4KrINyXLY3BMcOAub96qefH8KXLEI9kzmCw\\_uncbn7NCyFwKeuHgi243o866KAM-27AGGJag,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2f%2fPreserveYorktown.org%2fposition-statement&c=E,1,QGlvuY1FIEHcJWN5eCTqrkn_aUYtReEJ8Zf000_cdopH5eR4KrINyXLY3BMcOAub96qefH8KXLEI9kzmCw_uncbn7NCyFwKeuHgi243o866KAM-27AGGJag,&typo=1)). I ask that we follow these principles and prohibit all large ocean-class cruise ships in York County.

Please take time to review readily available information about the negative affects on communities around the world... There is no reason to believe that Yorktown would end up differently!

Thank you  
Maureen Moss  
224 Nelson Street

Sent from my iPhone

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## Sgroi, Jeanne

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**From:** larryraithel <larryraithel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 6:23 PM  
**To:** - Planning Division; Holroyd, Douglas; Noll, Sheila S.; Drewry, M. Wayne; Roane, Stephen; Shepperd, Thomas  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Zoning Ordinance Amendments on Large Cruise Ship Docking in Yorktown

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

Unfortunately I am unable to attend and speak at the upcoming meeting that will address the subject zoning ordinance amendment submitted to the Planning Commission, so if you will please take just a few minutes to read my message that follows.

Apparently, recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. Allowing cruise ship docking via a special use permit, leaves the possibility of cruise ship port calls to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown. This falls way short of the total prohibition of such visits that you were asked to come up with by your constituents and other individuals in the Yorktown area. Access via special use permits is a process not a prohibition. You are in effect telling the cruise lines port calls are a possibility and here's how you do it. It's just paperwork. You are actually opening up the door.

You know the negative impact of these port calls from the "process" we, YOU the government, and the public - your constituents, went through over the last 18-24 months. But, in case you have forgotten I will restate them. If allowed, these large ships will change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why over 7800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown. The organization Preserve Yorktown has documented the detrimental impacts of this industry and published principles of responsible tourism for Yorktown ([PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement](http://PreserveYorktown.org/position-statement)).

Some individuals may think that requiring special use permits will provide some degree of control, but given the possibility of access, cruise lines will put Yorktown port visits on their schedules, as you know they did in the past, submit for a special use permit (it's only paperwork), and then the County will be back in the position of having to make the case to disapprove each port call. That is unless you in fact are going to approve them, thus ignoring the input from the public, your constituents. And once you approve one, the precedence and it will be very difficult to say no to any other applications.

I am not sure how this Planning Commission process works, but I am again concerned about this this very contentious issue being addressed on what I think is relatively short notice, without much notice/announcement, within the holiday season, such that the amendment can be approved without public knowledge or involvement. I'm hoping this is not the case, and it will be disapproved or at least one/some of you will say that the amendment cannot be approved without greater public awareness. If you are being honest, you all know that Ocean class cruise ship access via special use permit approval, falls way short of the total ban that was desired by great numbers of the citizens of Yorktown, your constituents. Once Princess Cruise Lines decided to cancel their plans for port calls in 2024-25, you were asked by the public, and even some of you asked the County lawyer, to come up with a legal way to stop these ships from coming to Yorktown in the future. Please do not tell me this Special Use Permit approach is what you have come up with. It will only open up Pandora's box again, and we'll return to an ugly "fight" over the issue again.

Please disapprove the amendment and come up with a full and complete legal position to prohibit Ocean-class cruise ship port calls to Yorktown.

Thank you,

Larry Raitel  
703-945-7477

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## Sgroi, Jeanne

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**From:** Elizabeth Jacques Wilkins Van Montfrans <vanwilk@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 6:42 PM  
**To:** - Planning Division  
**Cc:** Roane, Stephen; Noll, Sheila S.; Shepperd, Thomas; Holroyd, Douglas; Drewry, M. Wayne  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Cruise Ship Amendments

Members of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed amendments posted on the upcoming Planning Commission agenda which, in essence, will allow massive cruise ships to visit Yorktown by simply being granted a Special Use Permit. Such a policy leaves the door wide open to the cruise industry based on the whim of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, with the BoS having the final decision. The cruise industry is a \$26 Billion enterprise and will spare no costs to achieve their goals. Cities across the globe have experienced the negative effects of allowing mega cruise ships to exploit their communities. Many, including San Francisco, CA, Savannah, GA, and Charleston, SC have excluded them and others are trying to get rid of them (Key West, Juneau, Bar Harbor Venice, Italy, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Santori and Mykos, Greece, Barcelona, Spain, Dubrovnik, Croatia to name a few). York County residents have made their concerns about these massive ships clearly known and Mr. Hill has had over eight months to investigate options for disallowing their entry into York County. The proposal put forward is disingenuous at best and is suddenly being made public with minimal notice at the busiest time of year, when the general public is focused on the holidays ahead.

York County Staff's perspective regarding the improbability of private property becoming available for a pier is misleading. Regarding "locations in the County, such as the Plains Marketing and Dominion Energy properties in Dandy could possible be suitable for a terminal if they ever became available for the purpose" having a "low likelihood" of occurring is a gross misrepresentation of that possibility. If Carnival Cruise Lines deems it profitable, they will stop at no cost to purchase that property to create a cruise terminal. This scenario has occurred throughout the world, including in Key West, Juneau, the Bahamas, Italy and in several other cities where the cruise lines have purchased private property and established their own private facilities to avoid public controls.

Preserve Yorktown has extensively researched consequences of the cruise industry on both small and large coastal towns. There is little to be gained and much to lose by embracing an industry which avoids paying US taxes and adhering to US labor regulations by registering overseas and whose only obligation is to its shareholders, For this reason I sincerely request that Application No. ZT-202-25 regarding a zoning ordinance to ostensibly keep cruise ships out of York County be removed from the agenda until Mr. Hill develops several scenarios that can be put out to the residents as was requested by Mr. Shepperd at an earlier BoS meeting.

Sincerely,  
Jacques van Montfrans

## Sgroi, Jeanne

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**From:** Herb Moss <hgross3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2024 7:28 PM  
**To:** - Planning Division  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Prohibit Large Cruise Ships in York County

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Recently an application for zoning ordinance amendments on large cruise ship docking was submitted to the Planning Commission. The amendments require a special use permit for docking large ships. This falls short of a prohibition of ocean-class cruise ships leaving a loophole to bring these character-altering ships to Yorktown.

If allowed, these large ships will change the character of Yorktown forever. It is important to protect our community. The cruise industry is a powerful multibillion dollar industry that will leverage any opportunity to increase its market share. There is ample evidence of over-tourism, pollution, and questionable business practices by this industry. This is why over 7800 individuals have signed a petition ([www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess](http://www.tinyurl.com/StopPrincess)) to stop these ships in Yorktown.

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Thank you  
Herb Moss  
224 Nelson St.  
Yorktown, VA

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