



December 07, 2023

Position Statement

High-Volume Cruise Ship Use of Yorktown Village as a Tourist Destination

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Conserve York County Foundation supports tourism of our area but only if the character of our historic places is protected and preserved. We place a high degree of trust in our local and state officials to guard Yorktown Village from commercial exploitation at the expense of the history and charm of our County. In keeping with the historic character and value of Yorktown, our Foundation will oppose the Princess Cruise Line initiative to disembark passengers within Yorktown Village based on the following:

- The Yorktown Village waterfront must not be used as a bus depot to ferry high volumes of visitors from Yorktown Village piers to other tourist destinations. Yorktown Village is historic treasure, not a transfer station.
- Princess Cruise Line vessels are powered by heavy fuel oil, also known as bunker oil. Heavy fuel oil is contaminated with various destructive compounds including foul aromatics, sulfur, and nitrogen, making emissions upon combustion significantly more polluting compared to cleaner fuels. The liquid effluent from smokestack scrubbers that keep much of the pollutants from the air is stored, then dumped in U.S. waters once offshore. Scrubbers removing airborne pollutants from heavy fuel oil directly contributes to acidification and water pollution.
- Lobbyists for Princess Cruise Lines secured taxpayer funding from the State of Virginia to build a pier on non-public land for receiving cruise ship passengers. Using taxpayer funds to bypass local government controls on passenger volumes is not in the best interest of protecting the character of Yorktown Village.

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"Protect, Preserve, Prosper"