

# COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 4A

Meeting: 01/24/2019

**DATE:** January 9, 2019

**TO:** Port Commission

**FROM:** John Wolfe, Chief Executive Officer

Sponsor: Evette Mason, Government Affairs Manager

Presenters: Wesley Wenhardt, Foss Waterway Seaport

Norm Gollub, Foss Waterway Development Authority

**SUBJECT:** STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING – 2018 CRUISE SHIP BUSINESS IN TACOMA

## **A. BRIEFING**

This stakeholder briefing is at Commission request regarding the 2018 cruise ship business in Commencement Bay. The presentation will be led by Wes Wenhardt, Executive Director of the Foss Waterway Seaport, and Norm Gollub, Executive Director of the Foss Waterway Development Authority.

## **B. BACKGROUND**

An American Cruise Lines representative contacted the Foss Waterway Seaport in March 2017 regarding the feasibility of cruise ship calls in Commencement Bay. American Cruise Lines staff toured the moorage facilities, the Seaport Museum and South Sound tourism activities. Initial arrangements were discussed and American Cruise Lines included Tacoma in their inaugural 2018 Puget Sound and San Juan Cruise itinerary.

American Cruise Lines is headquartered in Guilford, Connecticut. They utilized the *American Constellation* ship twice in September and October 2018 to visit six ports of call on their Puget Sound and San Juan Cruise. This is their newest vessel and has a capacity of 175 passengers, a 60-person crew and five decks with cabins. The vessel offers the largest staterooms in the industry, spacious lounges, as well as observation decks and private balconies for views of the passing scenery. In 2019 and 2020, American Cruise Lines plans at least five cruises per year that include Tacoma as a port of call.

American Cruise Lines vessels utilize the transient moorage at the Foss Waterway Seaport. The current floats were installed in 2010 in partial response to the Tall Ships and Festival of Sail events hosted on the Foss Waterway. Prior to American Cruise Lines use of the dock facilities, the Foss Waterway Development Authority developed criteria for allowable docking conditions and procedures.