

5/30/2020

Dear Skagway Assembly, Borough Manager Brad Ryan, and Mayor Andrew Cremata:

I am writing this letter as a private citizen and not as co-editor/owner of Skagway News. Because I commented publicly and may gain financially from Resolution 20-XXR, as discussed in the Finance Committee meeting on May 28, my colleague, Gretchen Wehmhoff, will cover this issue for the newspaper.

My husband and I have six children under the age of 18. Most of our children were adopted and most have special needs. As you may guess, I advocate each resident of Skagway, regardless of age, qualify for emergency monthly payments funded by the CARES Act and the CPV Grant.

A comment was made at the May 28 meeting describing the payments as a "windfall" for large families. I would like to walk you through the monthly finances of my large family.

- Leases for two rental homes and newspaper office: \$4,600 (All of our landlords are year-round, multi-generation Skagway residents. This money stays in the community. We maintain two small rentals as one of our children does better one-on-one.)
- Utilities for rental homes and newspaper office: \$1,000
- Car payment, insurance, gas: \$600 (We cannot sell our vehicle because of our children's physical limitations.)
- Groceries: \$1,600

These expenses total \$7,800. If all eight members of our family received \$1,000 each, our emergency checks would provide \$8,000. I have not included credit card payments, miscellaneous expenditures, or a clothing allowance.

As you can see, all our money would go to necessities and local businesses. There would be no trips to Disneyland, or even Sitka.

My husband and I both had jobs lined up when we moved to Skagway. Due to COVID-19, like many residents, neither of us expect to make an income until next summer.

I urge you to keep guidelines similar to those enacted for the Municipality's \$400 emergency checks. Discounting children or enacting a rule that recipients must have resided in Skagway in the summer of 2019 leave some community members, like myself, in jeopardy.

My family made sacrifices to move to this beautiful community and have made a commitment to remain. We appreciate your time, service, and the care you take of Skagway residents. I truly believe this is the best town in the state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Melinda Munson
P.O Box 244
Skagway, AK 99840