

## Emily Deach

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**Subject:** To the Finance Committee Members, Mayor Cremata, and Manager Ryan.

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**From:** Jeffrey Hitt

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020 7:00 AM

**To:** Emily Deach <e.deach@skagway.org>

**Subject:** [External Email] To the Finance Committee Members, Mayor Cremata, and Manager Ryan.

June 2, 2020

To the Finance Committee Members, Mayor Cremata, and Manager Ryan.

Like all the correspondence you have received, I would like to thank you for time and effort on the distributions of the CARES Act funds the Municipality has received. As a small business owner, I know it is no small task to receive and manage this money with no real guidelines and so much uncertainty as to what the future holds- for all of us. There are so many variables to consider and each household has its own unique set of financial problems.

The original Resolution No. 20-22R seems pretty straightforward- Skagway residents (adults and children) will receive \$1000 each as long as they meet certain criteria. While I appreciate the spirit of the proposed amendments to help out local business owners, the amendments proposed are too restrictive and, in my personal case, counterproductive. To explain my personal situation: Under the original Resolution, I would be receiving \$2000 monthly for my daughter and me. This will greatly supplement the loss of income from my business. Starfire has been operating in the red since we opened our doors on April 9. While the amendment (possibly) offers 2x more money to me as a business owner, it negates that gain by excluding money for my 12-year-old. Furthermore, as I will be teaching 20 hours per week at the school this year, I could possibly not qualify for *any* money if I were to pick up extra hours and help the school out. So, in the end, the amendments that are designed to help me, the local business owner out, would end up working against me.

Also, I must add that promoting a Shop Local campaign is essential. appreciated and far-reaching in our fragile economy. At Starfire, it allows us to employ residents, serve locals, and maintain relationships while keeping that money circulating in the community. When the first federal and local stimulus checks went out, we saw an immediate increase in business. We also see more families ordering takeout than ever before and the feedback is always that they want to keep us in business. Please put the CARES Act money in the hands of these conscientious families and residents. It's going to be a long winter and everyone (!) is going to need all the help they can get.

Sincerely,

**Jeffrey Hitt**

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