

Emily Deach

Subject: Mary Thole- Public Comment on Resolution 20-22R for Community Assistance and Economic Stimulus

From: Mary Thole

Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 8:18 AM

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

Subject: [External Email] Mary Thole- Public Comment on Resolution 20-22R for Community Assistance and Economic Stimulus

Dear Mayor Cremata, Manager Ryan, Skagway Assembly Members, and Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your representation of our community and those who have worked diligently and quickly to develop a plan of equitable disbursement of the CARES Act stimulus funds.

I would like to provide comment of both Resolution 20-22R and its proposed amendments:

- I hope to see the qualifications as a local resident include proof of both state and local residence like the PFD and mortgage/renter's contract/driver's license/voter ID.
- I hope the funding dispersal is not a flat \$1,000 per person in the community, but that an equitable equation is devised that would put more funds into those who need them to survive.
- Initially I thought \$1,000 per month during these lean times is excessive for those working full time, but if the municipality wants to create economic stimulus, being able to get coffee a few times per week and order dinner for our family at a local restaurant is not sustainable on a regular basis on our salaries. We budget to order dinner from restaurants ten times per year, and we are almost at that cap from trying to support Starfire, the Brew Co., Bombay Curry, the Red Onion, the Pizza Station, and Glacial Coffeehouse this spring. With stimulus funds we would certainly spend the funds only locally to support local restaurants, the hardware store, and to prioritize our groceries to be bought locally.
- When stimulus checks are distributed, it would be beneficial for the municipality to encourage and educate the community with ideas of how to "Shop Local" and shift their way of thinking about Amazon so easily.
- Retirees and children should be included in the fund disbursements. Children are expensive and most do not bring in an income or earn a very small fraction of the household income. That said, children doing summer work side jobs is how many purchase their gym shoes, new size of clothes, and school supplies- many community members do not have the funds to pay these kids for side jobs. Due to Covid19 we will not be paying babysitters this summer and our son will not be a Newsie this summer.

After reading all of the other written correspondence for your meeting today, I'd like to echo and support all of the ideas in the letter from Cindy O'Daniel. She really hit the nail on the head with the reality of the challenges you are faced with to create an assistance and stimulus package together simultaneously, yet she has very solid points about being inclusive to include the community members in need of assistance and to support those who can work to continue to stimulate our economy during this time.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mary and Cory Thole