

5/31/2020

Re: Resolution 20-22R

Dear Honorable Mayor Cremata and Esteemed Assembly,

Marla and I are writing this letter in support of Resolution 20-22R as it was originally written. We agree with Mayor Cremata when he states that this may well be the life preserver that is needed to keep ALL the townspeople here in town. We also agree with the Mayor that this program needs to be available for children, adults, business owners, seniors, retirees, and newer residents. In other words, EVERYONE that chooses to remain in Skagway and bravely face these challenges head-on.

We have heard from others that attended the last financial meeting that there are going to be some stipulations proposed for this resolution. We feel these stipulations should not be added to this resolution. Do you know how many people that are working 20 hours or more a week took a cut in pay to be able to keep their jobs? When putting this restriction in place you are going to make it so some of the people that are working part time to make ends meet, quit their jobs, how many of these positions are essential. We have families in town that have jobs, but they augment this with other tourist employment that is available to help ends meet, what about those families? People want to work to help make ends meet and by putting these restrictions in place you will take this away and have people sitting at home, and how is this good for the welfare of the community.

By letting ALL families qualify, you will see people able to have a little extra spending money that will be spent in town to help keep our restaurants open, when they start eating out once a week. Or they will go to any of the businesses in town that are open, and this could help them stay open. We cannot be narrow minded in our thinking of who is most affected by this pandemic that has hit our community. We must remember that it is not only the tourism type businesses that are hard hit. It is the eateries that stay open for the community in the winter when they are taking a loss to do so. It is the other year-round businesses that make enough in the summer to stay open in the winter so locals can shop and even keep some locals employed. Without the extra summer sales, will we have a grocery store this winter? How many people do they employ that would not qualify for this stimulus? There are part time jobs at the school that could go unfilled because of these restrictions.

As our elected officials, you have some very tough decisions to make to help keep this town upright until the ships are able to come again, this is a very good start to keep everyone moving forward in a positive manner. We urge you to not put employment restrictions in place for this as there could be many unintended consequences because of those restrictions.

Respectfully,

Darren and Marla Belisle
Longtime Skagway Residents.