

Emily Deach

Subject: Emergency Assistance and Economic Stimulus Program/Resolution 20-22R

From: Margaret Mitchell

Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 9:03 AM

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

Subject: [External Email] Re: Emergency Assistance and Economic Stimulus Program/Resolution 20-22R

Dear Finance Comitte, Mayor Cremata, Borough Manager Ryan, Assemblymen S. Burnham, J. Burnham, Brena, Hanson and Henry,

Who knew one little bat could turn the world on a dime? No one could have predicted it. The repercussions are high. And, I don't envy any of you at this point in time to help decide how to proportionally allocate this money in this delicate time.

Now, I am no economist. But I have questions. I'll get to those.

First of all, I became a year round citizen in 2007. But probably not a registered voter till 2010. Alaska has been my state of residence approximately since that year legally. I was a late bloomer to accept the PFD and have only been receiving that for approx. the last 4 years.

Costs of a single woman for me in Skagway, with just rent, electricity, phone, and food (at home not out) come to approximately \$1,495. I'm not including what I call luxuries: My vehicle insurance, gas, internet, prescriptions, medical appointments, credit card debt, eating out, that occur. Just the bare basics come to \$1,495.

I believe whole heartedly that no one in this community wants to see a family, or a business leave. I do however find the stipend of 1,000 per child a little bit on the high end. National statistics show that in respects to food; "For a one-year-old child, costs range from 96.40 per month to 177.70, with the moderate plan running 146.60 a month. By the time the child is nine-years-old, that moderate-cost plan has risen to 273.70. On the same plan, a male 18-year-old eats \$311 worth of food every month, and a female, 248.50." *source investopedia.com. For comparison I found this from thetreet.com in the feature 'How much does it cost to have a baby in 2020?' "Depending on the household income the USDA estimates that a 1-year-old child will cost \$173 a month to feed; a 9-year-old costs up to \$266; and an 18-year-old will eat his way through \$304 every month." Take into account we have Skagway prices, it bumps it up. So my suggestion is along with the initial stimulus payment given by the U.S. Dept. Of Treasury, why not bump up the dependents to \$500 a month. Maybe \$600? Older teens that had jobs last summer (besides babysitting) that can show that they worked in the tourist trade should be able to collect some of what they would have made. A separate back to school budget with an additional stipend in August, something to consider.

Questions:

If NPS employees (Federal employees) are working full time are they still eligible?

Other employees that have reduced hours; can there be a stipend to equal to what they would have made without exceeding the allotted \$1000?

The same to be said with those that took pay cuts, can we allow them a stipend to let them hit a mark closer to their typical salary range, again not exceeding the \$1000?

I personally believe that this might be a situation to look at as a case by case need. Every family, and person is different, and the only fair way to me looks like a case by case. I personally have NO problem submitting my tax return, and

submitting my receipts from any money I receive and how I spend it, to be approved by an accountant of some sort for the assembly.

We are not the only community that is struggling, the rest of America is struggling as well.....not to mention the whole world.

If one neighbor prospers, and another is to scrape by.....this is not equal. There is a risk of dividing neighbors, instead of providing the unity of such a wonderful community.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,

Margaret G. Mitchell