

attention: Emily Deach

Subject: Resolution 20-22R Economic Stimulus

From: Janet Mitchell
P.O. Box 904
Skagway, AK. 98110

Dear, Finance Committee, Mayor Cremata and Assembly Members

I'm writing in regards to Resolution 20-22R.

One of my concerns is in the way it is stipulated that one must be eligible for the 2020 PFD, to be considered a Skagway resident for these proposed funds. I've been a resident of Skagway since 2005 (a summer worker previous back to 2003) and I have never collected the PFD. I've been registered to vote here since about that time, and held a Skagway drivers license since that time. I don't feel my (or another's) choice to not apply for the PFD should be a factor in whether we are considered a local resident. The state of Alaska does not require it's residents to apply for the PFD program.

Also, I'll note, I've been counted in the 2010 and 2020 census as a resident, and did you know that the Cares Act Fund allocation to Alaska (and the other states) was based on census data, it counts to be counted! My plug for the 2020 census...

My other concern is, I am currently outside Skagway caring for an elderly parent with dementia (classified as a terminal disease). My physical residence and business are in Skagway. Skagway is my home. I have no other residence, but because I'm caring for a family member out of town will that make me ineligible? The definition for legal residence is basically, "the residence where you have your permanent home or principal establishment and to where, whenever you are absent, you intend to return." I intend to return, I would be there now working if it weren't for the pandemic...

I've owned and operated with my sister, the business Alaska Artworks in town since 2009. We're one of the many local shops that proudly and with great honor represent some of our local artists (usually 10 to 12) each year. I accept that we're losing the season, and I'm losing my regular income, but if the town is stepping up to help the local residents navigate these next 6-10 months then I need to step up and say "I'm in that boat too," despite not being physically at home right now.

I've applied for the SBA economic disaster loan, and two grants, I have not been awarded anything. I'm concerned about paying my shop rent for this year, (including the taxes on that rent). My landlord is willing to work with me, but the idea has been floated I pay the missing rent next year on top of 2021 rent....that will put more strain on next year and delay getting back on my feet. I realize that most of us will need more than next season to get back on our feet, it's going to take a few years probably and depends on the cruise industry's capacity to bounce back. Also, I've got apartment rent, we know how hard to find and how expensive housing is in town, the proposed payment of \$1000. would leave approx. \$50. leftover. (I think

that would be true for most singles living in year round housing not counting utilities etc., their rent alone will require most if not all of the proposed \$1,000 amount). So while I may not be there right now, I still spend a lot locally. I'm not sure with the loss of all income, how to pay for the above, or even regular expenses like food, medication, car insurance etc.

I'm just like all the other Skagway business owners and citizens who have suddenly been left without regular income this year. Why couldn't a Skagway resident not physically in town be eligible and use whatever the allocated amount is towards Skagway specific bills or predominantly Skagway specific bills.

I don't envy you in figuring out how to dispense the funds, there are so many factors to consider, and from what I read on the CARES Act fund, lots of rules apply. But, I do ask you to consider carefully how you define a "resident". And, how you can allocate funds to help local business owners make it to next year.

And I do agree with the idea that the funds be dispersed based on a tier of one's earnings like the national stimulus payments. And I don't think children need quite as much as adults, that would create a disproportionate disbursement of the funds to some households and much less to others. It needs to be based more on helping everyone stay healthy, keep a warm roof over their head, and feed. Their regular bills first and foremost. And it probably would be a good idea to be very specific about what kind of documentation will be required of folks to show what the funds were spent on, so it's clear ahead of time.

I ask my community to think about their needs versus their wants. We all need to get through to next year, so next spring we can all get back to the hustle and bustle of our town "in season". And it would be nice to know, we all made it, and move forward in "unity as a community" (couldn't resist it!). That's one of the qualities I often tell our visitors in the shop, Skagway might be a small town, but it's got a huge heart.

Sincerely,
Janet Mitchell
local resident and business owner