

## Emily Deach

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**Subject:** Resolution No. 20-22R

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**From:** KayLynn Howard  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020 10:08 AM  
**To:** Emily Deach <e.deach@skagway.org>  
**Subject:** [External Email] Resolution No. 20-22R

Dear Finance Committee & Assembly Members,

Thank you to all members of this committee, the Assembly, Manager Ryan, and Mayor Cremata for the thoughtful work you put forth to support our town. I would like to make a few comments and express some concern over certain parts of the resolution. First, every resident has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and this resolution is vital in helping residents continue to live here.

On the point of not allowing this relief to those who work 40 hours a week does not take into account that many in our town still make minimum wage or just over and they also need assistance. Consider that many residents work hours have been reduced and many have taken pay cuts during this pandemic. We need to acknowledge that a good percentage of residents work multiple jobs in the summertime to be able to afford their wintertime bills, this year does not allow for that and puts many in dire straits come winter, if not sooner. Please allow all residents to be eligible for payment, regardless of their working hours.

As far as exempting children under age 14 from consideration, that ignores a young and vulnerable population in our community. Skagway is known for its unending support to our youth, why would we set age limits on that support now. It still costs money each month to have children under age 14, so this reasoning is not clear. Children of all ages should be eligible. However, I do believe \$1,000 per kid should either be phased to lower payments past a certain number of children, capped at a certain number of children, or children receive lower payments altogether. Something to the effect that the local stimulus had in place this spring.

It may be extra beneficial if the city used some of these funds to create a program where residents can request one time payments of bills or groceries should they be encountering an extra hardship. The city could pay that bill directly, such as those who need assistance filling their heating oil or giving a set amount of store credit at the grocery stores.

With this assistance to our community it is vital that people are encouraged to shop local and I would hope the city and Chamber of Commerce does a "Shop Local" initiative. It is clear that community members truly care about the small businesses here who continue to serve us despite the hardships they are also facing. This aid will allow locals to continue to support these small businesses while supporting themselves as well.

The residents of Skagway work hard to call this place home. We all want to stay in our home. This resolution can allow for that.

Thank you for your considerations and hard work on this matter.

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