

5/31/20

Municipality of Skagway
P.O. Box 415
Skagway, AK 99840

RE: CARES Act Funding

Dear Finance Committee and Mayor Cremata,

Thank you all for your hard work and for considering the opinions held by the residents of Skagway regarding the CARES Act funding. First of all, I am in support of Resolution No. 20-22R as it is currently written. In addition, I do not agree with limiting the payment to 14 years or older as was suggested at the last Finance Committee meeting. The expense of running a household increases with additional family members. If children under the age of 14 are excluded, a married couple would get paid the same as a family of five if the children in the household are under 14 years of age. Perhaps a cap should be discussed or dependents under the age of 14 receive a smaller portion of the payment. Payment to all residents regardless of age will help to keep families in Skagway. If families leave Skagway, and school enrollment decreases, funding to the school will be cut. As a result, we will be jeopardizing the quality of education our children deserve and have been so fortunate to receive. I also don't agree with withholding funding to anyone working twenty or more hours weekly which was also discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting. And lastly, It is of utmost importance that the funds paid to residents are spent in Skagway. Paying all residents and that money being spent locally, not only supports our residents but helps the businesses. I suggest receipts for rent, clothing, food, gas, utilities, etc. be a requirement when applying for additional months so that we can ensure the funds are spent locally. If Resolution 20-22R is passed as is, the residents of Skagway will spend their money more freely rather than pinch pennies. Whether one has lost their job and are collecting unemployment, been furloughed, had a salary decrease, had hours cut, or has taken another job that pays less, most feel this is not the time to splurge by getting take out from restaurants or going to the coffee shop. The future is too uncertain at this time. The bottom line is that this money should be used to support residents and in turn help our economy as a result.

Sincerely,
Denise Sager