

May 29, 2020

Sent via e-mail only

Municipality of Skagway
e.deach@skagway.org

RE: Emergency Funding and Economic Stimulus Package – Cares Act and CPV Funding

Dear Finance Committee, Mayor Cremata & Skagway Assembly,

I appreciate the Municipal Staff working so diligently to propose an emergency assistance and economic stimulus package. I attended the Finance Committee Meeting on May 28th and do take issue with several edits recommended by committee as follows:

1. Kids under the age of 14 are NOT eligible for the \$1,000.
2. Business owners negatively impacted by COVID are eligible for an extra \$1-2.5K.
3. Anyone working more than 20 hours per week are NOT eligible.

I take issue with each for the following reasons:

1. Kids are expensive and do not support themselves. School funding is directly tied to student enrollment and if families cannot afford to stay in Skagway, we will be facing a new financial crisis as a School District and will not be able to maintain the highest standard in education that we have worked so hard to secure.
2. There were 443 Skagway Business licenses issued this year; 265 have Skagway mailing addresses. With CARES Act funding of \$1-2.5K being distributed to each, I fear that it is not enough to stimulate those businesses to provide services to residents. And without that money being put in consumer hands, there will be no discretionary money for customers to support those businesses. The money will have been allocated in vain.
3. This does not account for people who have taken salary reductions or who are not working second jobs as they usually would in the summer. It is also very difficult for someone to survive on part-time work and I fear this would force people to quit their jobs to become eligible for funding.

Please do NOT entertain these suggested edits. Please approve the Resolution 20-22R as currently drafted.

I think an education component to the program is also critical. It is important that applicants understand that this money is intended to support rent, utilities, groceries, etc. but that it is also intended to support local economy. So, any discretionary funds remaining after those expenses are covered, should be spent at local Skagway businesses.

Thanks for putting so much thought into this program.



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