MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 20-40R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA ESTABLISHING THE TIER I SNOW GRANT, A PROGRAM TO HELP YEAR-ROUND RESTAURANT AND GROCERY STOREFRONTS MAINTAIN THEIR TRADITIONAL PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY DURING THE 2020/2021 WINTER SEASON, AND TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF SKAGWAY.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Municipality of Skagway declared an emergency based on the risk to the public posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the substantial adverse economic impacts to Skagway residents, which was confirmed by the Assembly on March 19, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Skagway businesses rely upon the tourism industry for financial stability; and

WHEREAS, the widespread cancellation of cruises to Alaska has and will continue to have a detrimental impact on all Skagway businesses; and

WHEREAS, impacts to the local economy due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and health mandates have been and will continue to be devastating, with an estimated total community revenue loss of approximately $160 million for the 2020 season alone; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Skagway wishes to implement the Tier I SNOW Grant (Skagway Normal Operations for Wintertime) to help provide restaurant and grocery services to residents in hopes of keeping them both mentally and physically healthy during the long winter months in Skagway, Alaska, and to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financial stability of Skagway businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Tier I SNOW Grant will be funded from Sales Tax; and

WHEREAS, to qualify for Tier I SNOW Grant funding, eligible businesses must have maintained an open storefront from November 2019 through March of 2020, paid municipal sales tax during that same period, and must commit to maintaining an open storefront from October 15, 2020 through March 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of the Tier I SNOW Grant, "storefront" shall mean an occupied room or suite of rooms in a building at street level and immediately behind a storefront, that is accessible to customers during business hours; "restaurant" means a business that prepares and serves food to customers, and may include dine-in, take-out, or delivery services; and "grocery" means a business that sells food products;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway establishes the Tier I SNOW Grant program as follows:

Tier I Funding - Restaurants and Grocery Establishments:
- Total funding: $150,000
- Maximum funding per business: $25,000
- Payment will be disbursed by the end of each month from October 2020 through April 2021.
- If a business is closed by a state or local mandate due to COVID-19 response, it will continue to receive funding through the life of the grant program.
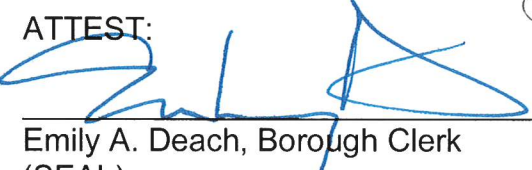
Eligibility:
- Primary place of business has to be Skagway, Alaska.
- Business must be a restaurant or grocery establishment.
- Business must have maintained an open storefront from November 2019 through March 2020.
- Paid municipal taxes in both the fourth quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020.
- Commitment to maintaining an open storefront five days per week from October 15, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
- Did not accept a Tier II SNOW Grant for the same business.
- A business and/or its owner is only eligible for one Tier I SNOW Grant.
- Business agrees to comply with all federal, state, and local COVID-19 protocols, in existence and which may become necessary in the future.
- Business agrees to require employees to wear cloth face coverings over the nose and mouth at all times when indoors, and outdoors when six-foot distancing is not possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 1st day of October, 2020.

Andrew Cremata, Mayor

ATTEST:

Emily A. Deach, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)