MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 21-32R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA ESTABLISHING AN UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE COMMUNITY OF SKAGWAY.

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, the Skagway Borough Assembly declared a financial emergency due to the substantial economic risk that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose to the community; and

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

WHEREAS, the Skagway community relies upon the tourism industry for financial stability, and relies on seasonal workers who are integral to ensuring the success of this industry; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality understands the importance of financially supporting seasonal workers affected by the financial emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Skagway accepted a $2,000,000 donation from Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) for the purpose of providing economic relief to the community due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and allocated or earmarked $450,000 of these funds for unemployment assistance, pursuant to Ordinance No. 21-11 and the upcoming FY22 budget process; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Skagway wishes to implement an Unemployment Assistance Program to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financial stability of the community of Skagway; and

WHEREAS, the proposed grant program will be managed and administered by the municipal Administration Department following the guidelines adopted in this resolution;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway establishes an Unemployment Assistance Program, to be administered as follows:

General Program Guidelines:

- Total funding: $450,000.
- Up to $112,500 will be allocated for qualified applicants each month beginning in December 2021 and concluding March 2022. This allocation will be disbursed each month following the qualifying month.
- Applicants must apply separately for each month the program is available.
Individual disbursements to individuals who are not on unemployment but who are not working due to COVID-19 related closures or illnesses will not exceed $1,680 each month.

Individual disbursements will not exceed $2,400 each month.

The allocated funding each month will be split equally among qualified applicants.

The program will conclude at the end of April 2022, and any remaining funds for the program will be reallocated by the Assembly.

Eligibility:

- Must be a resident of Skagway and pick up checks each month in person.
- Must provide proof of receipt of any form of unemployment assistance for the qualifying month (federal, state, railroad, including pandemic unemployment assistance); this includes partial unemployment.
- If an individual was receiving unemployment but has timed out of their benefits as of September 1, 2021, the individual is still eligible but must provide proof of such benefit status.
- Individuals who are not on unemployment but who are not working due to COVID-19 related closures or illnesses are eligible for funding as follows:
  - Must provide written proof from employer of inability to work due to business closures or COVID-19 related illness;
  - Individuals may receive $120 per day (8 hours at $15 per hour) for a maximum of $1,680 (14 days) per month;
  - Individuals may apply for funding after returning to work; funding will not be provided until duration of closure or illness has ended or after 14 days, whichever is sooner.
- Individuals are ineligible if they have been denied unemployment by turning down a job offer during the applicable month.

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 4th day of November, 2021.

Andrew Cremata, Mayor

ATTEST:
Steve Burnham Jr., Borough Clerk

(SEAL)