

Debra Thompson

From: Will and Christy Ware <info@akcedarbox.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Assembly; pcoc@alaskan.com; Liz Cabrera
Subject: Cares Act Funding

Good afternoon,

I want to say that I had an incredible call with Liz Cabrera today regarding the status of our local storefronts downtown today. She also took some time to explain where we are with Petersburg's Cares Act Funding in regards to our schools and hospital obligations.

I want to start by saying that I am full support of giving our schools the full funding they need to operate during this time. While we are experiencing low counts of the virus here locally at this time, the full protection of our children's physical and mental, and of course educational needs should be reflected in our Care's Act Budget. I have the same concern for our medical center.

However, I would also echo these same sentiments for our local small businesses. Small, brick and mortar storefronts are the backbone of every community, including Petersburg. I have spoken with a few of my fellow business owners here on mainstreet and find that, while they may not be vocal regarding their (our) dire situations, many businesses are uncertain if they will still have their doors open after this pandemic is over. While many of us have taken advantage of the PPP and/or the EIDL, it simply is not enough to ensure that we are going to be able to survive the long fall/winter and spring, especially in light of low revenue generation this summer. Bottom line, there is no security in knowing whether or not we have enough to make it. In the next week you will see some food vendor(s) closing as it no longer makes sense to stay open this summer.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't say how appreciative we are of the \$1000 grant given by the Borough earlier this Spring. It was immediately used to cover a portion of our rent for that month. I understand that came from the Borough coffers, and not the Care's Act funding. Can our local businesses expect the Assembly to continue to see local businesses as a priority and provide additional support from the Care's Act funding?

Gunalcheesh!

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