

September 7, 2020

Borough Assembly Members

As a small business owner, I have greatly appreciated the positive support received by our community this year. Due to the numerous obstacles brought by Covid-19, this has not been the ideal year to have a new business and has presented many more struggles and sacrifices than typically seen when starting a new business.

Many of the economic support programs offered for businesses have been based on operating revenue received over the course of an entire year. This has left new business not qualifying for grant opportunities as seen by other businesses.

Example EIDL Grant: Annual Revenue /12 months of operation (Even if only in operation 6 months the annual revenue was still divided by 12 months)

The Local Municipal Economic Support Grant is based on a loss in gross sales from April, May and June 2019 as compared to 2020. When asked how new businesses not in operation during that time, but before March 11, 2020 would have eligibility determined, I was informed they would average the preceding months. This method again places new businesses at an economic disadvantage. Most all customer based businesses who rely on customers walking in or visiting their establishment see greater revenue during the qualifying 3 months than during the preceding months, as used to calculate for new businesses, hence making new businesses ineligible for the local support.

In addition to the non-essential business closure, Blomster Hus lost other spring/summer revenue sources including cancelations of weddings, celebrations of life and special gatherings florists cater to, as well as lost tourism income and yacht floral arrangement orders. Having a robust spring/summer season helps many of our local small businesses survive during the off season.

Please consider allowing an alternate method of calculating loss revenue for new businesses within our community to become eligible for the Local Municipal Economic Support Grant.

Although I do not plan on speaking toward Resolution #2020-16 during the Borough Assembly Meeting, I do plan on listening in should there be any questions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stacy Kittams

Blomster Hus

Cc: Liz Cabra, PEDC