

April 1, 2014

Kathy O'Rear, Borough Clerk
Jody Tow, Finance Director
Petersburg Borough
Petersburg, Alaska

Re: Date for tax-free sale days per Ord. 954


Jody and Kathy:

The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce would like to conduct our tax-free sale day on Saturday, May 3, 2014.

The tax-free sale day does produce additional shopping and purchasing activity in Petersburg, which benefits local retailers and the borough economy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Fran Jones
President

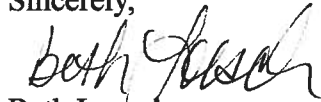
P.O. Box 649 • Petersburg, Alaska 99833
907-772-3646 Email: pcoc@alaska.com www.petersburg.org

Dear Members of the Assembly,

I am writing in regards to how much Tax Free Day means to my business. Last year my sales on Tax Free Day increased almost 100%. I had 15 more sales than the previous year on that day. It may not seem like much but to a sole proprietor like me increased sales, even on one day, during a slow time of the year means a lot. With that money I was able to purchase extra inventory that was sold later in the year on taxable days; I was able to pay myself a little extra so I could buy some extra groceries (the day after Tax Free Day so I paid taxes); and I had people come in who'd never been in my store before who came back the following week to get some things framed (again, on taxable sales days). These Tax Free Days help increase traffic downtown and get people to see what our local stores offer. It also helps out small businesses like myself who are working 6-7 days a week so we can bring in sales to make ends meet along with sales tax revenue for the borough. As a small business it would mean a lot to keep Tax Free Days.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Loesch", written in a cursive style.

Beth Loesch

Owner of Miele Gallery & Framing

Dear Borough Assembly and Mayor,

I am writing in regard to Petersburg's Sales Tax Free days for 2014. As a local retailer and board member of the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, I would encourage you to approve these events. They were voted into effect by our community, so it seems only fair to approve them. Also, from what I understand, sales tax revenues are up from last year. In light of this fact, it seems that for the current year, these Sales Tax Free days should stand.

I know from my own experiences, the extra shot of revenue to the businesses I am involved with is a big help. It encourages folks to buy locally rather than purchasing at Costco, Walmart, Safeway, or any other big market chain available around Southeast Alaska. I believe it also helps folks make the decision to buy here in Petersburg rather than logging on to websites like Amazon. With new programs like Amazon Prime, local shoppers are able to order everything down to toilet paper free of shipping charges instead of purchasing here in town. I have compared prices, and while you can always find it cheaper in town by a few pennies if you shop the sales, folks aren't even bothering to check anymore. They're going with the simpler option. This is happening more and more every day.

I know that a person can't get their latte' or their margarita shipped in from Seattle, so there are different struggles associated with the small businesses I deal with. For us, the less money circulating through town means fewer lattes', scones, and margaritas sold from behind our counters. The fewer beverages and goodies sold, means less money available for things like payroll and donations. We all know what happens when payroll numbers need to drop...people lose jobs. And the next time a local non-profit stops by for a donation...it could mean we can't afford to give one.

Anything we can do to keep money local, is something we should all buy into. Please consider approving both Sales Tax Free days for 2014 and if possible, it would be great to have both days set, so retailers have ample time to plan for them.

Cheers!

Hillary Whitethorn

Kito's Kave Bar & Liquor

Java Hus Gourmet Espresso & Bakery

Past President – Petersburg Chamber of Commerce

Vice President - Viking Swim Club

Treasurer – PEDC

Support for Spring Tax Free Day-May 3, 2014

I would like to see the Borough offer a 'Tax free day' this spring.

It would benefit everyone and help to boost the economy in Petersburg. Last year I added a 10% discount to all food orders as an added incentive and I had a stellar day.

'Tax free days' help all of us as shoppers as well, to purchase that high priced item that was just too expensive with a tax.

Everyone was smiling that day.

Thank You,

Susan Burrell
The Fisherman's Net Cafe

To the Assembly,

Life in retail is very different than it was 20 years ago. It's very challenging running a business on an island with a small population. Any incentive to help consumers to shop locally is a plus. Everyone likes a deal. Tax free day is an added bonus. Thank you for taking the time to consider this.

Nance Zaic
Sing Lee Alley Books

Diamante Gift Shoppe

P.O. Box 1029

Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Borough Council Members,

Please consider a tax free day for May 3rd. This event encourages people to come downtown, shop, and contribute to our local economy. I saw a significant increase in my sales on the days that we offered the "no tax" day, and people had FUN! I believe that as we do this more it will encourage some out of town guests to hop on over and contribute to our economy as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Theresa Litsheim
Diamante Gift Shoppe



The Fabric Basket
PO Box 248, Petersburg AK. 99833
907-772-4077
thefabricbasket@gci.net

April 2, 2014

Dear Petersburg Borough Assembly,

I am writing in support of the Chamber of Commerce request for a spring tax free day of Saturday May 3, 2014. The last tax free day that we had in October 2013 was a huge success. It gave me the highest single day of sales that I have had in 5 years of business. I have heard from other retailers that it was like Christmas time sales for them as well. If you participated in the sales going on through town you would have experienced a kind of street fair ambiance. It was wonderful to see so many people out and enjoying themselves.

I am finding more and more that I rely on my summer (tourism) sales to carry me through the rest of the year. In the retail cycle this time of year January thru April is always slow, but this year my sales are down from the last two years, over \$2,00.00 for both February and March. In talking with other local retailers I am not the only one seeing a decline in sales this year. So I am really looking to this spring tax free day to help bring in some additional sales that will see me through until the tourists arrive. I don't want to become a "seasonal" shop like so many others are in Ketchikan and Juneau. I love and appreciate my local customers too much. I also find that the fall tax free day does the same thing for me. It helps tie me over until Christmas sales.

So I would request that you set aside Saturday May 3 as the spring tax free day in help to my shop, the other retailers and as an incentive to our community to get out and shop! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Savann Guthrie
Owner
The Fabric Basket