

Alekka, would you please make sure this letter gets to the 8/18/20 CARES Act/Commerce Committee Meeting.

Thanks.

Tom and Liz

Dear Manager, Mayor, Assembly, and Financial Officer, We are writing to express our disappointment that The Bookstore owner, Amy Kane, was denied a Small Business Grant through the CARES Act funding for Haines. It seems very discriminatory to deny her business (any business) trying to contribute to the Haines economy simply due to the lack of a 2019 tax return for the business. Ms. Kane had many start-up expenses before her February opening. It was out of her control that the COVID-19 pandemic reached Haines only a few days after her opening.

Haines has enjoyed and supported a bookstore at the same location on Main Street since 1995. The bookstore has been supporting the economy and paying sales tax in Haines since 1993, a span of 27 years. The quirk of bad timing for Ms. Kane taking the reins of the current bookstore during these times is not something she should be punished for. She very much needs the funding to survive and thrive according to her business plan. We hope you will reconsider her application for the CARES Act funding. If it would help, we would be happy to supply our tax returns for the last year we owned the store to show its viability and contribution to the Haines economy. Or, of course, the borough could access the sales tax records that we filed during our ownership from 1998-2017.

Sincerely,

Tom and Liz Heywood

Former bookstore owners in Haines for 19 years

8/17/20