

Hello,

Wasn't sure if this was the appropriate channel for this feedback; if you could please forward to the appropriate parties, I would greatly appreciate it.

I am writing to urge the Borough to reconsider their policy of basing the distribution of pandemic assistance grant money solely on 2019 profits. Using only this metric excludes brand new businesses from funds that they badly need at least as much as the rest of us. In particular, the Bookstore should be eligible for grant money. The business that Amy Kane purchased and poured her savings into has been in existence on Main Street for many years, and even though her business license/name are new, the business itself is a Haines institution and should be recognized as such. Amy is dealing with financial hardship even more than some of us given that almost as soon as she opened her doors (after spending months renovating the space, rebuilding relationships within the community and replenishing inventory) she had to close immediately. Amy's dream of owning a bookstore and making her forever home in Haines took a huge hit when Covid 19 arrived, and it's incumbent on the Borough to extend the same care to her that it extends to other business owners.

I understand that some measurement of eligibility was needed to determine who should get this money. By widening your scope, however, you can include even more businesses and reap the benefits of having a healthier diversified economy down the road. I acknowledge my own business's good fortune in receiving a Borough grant and I, personally, would be very happy to sacrifice some (or all) of our share of the "leftover" funds if I knew they were going to other small business owners like Amy.

I am grateful to the Borough for their care in orchestrating the disbursement of the grant money and hopeful that new businesses will be duly considered. They should not be penalized for the unfortunate timing of a global pandemic.

Many thanks,

Amelia Nash

Sent from my iPad