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May 12, 2020

Ref: Recommendations of the Economic Stabilization Task Force

Mayor Weldon and Members of the Assembly,

At its May 11, 2020 meeting, the Economic Sustainability Task Force (ESTF) voted to make four recommendations to you to assist businesses and families in Juneau. We strongly encourage you to adopt and implement these ideas.

The ideas include business grants, help for utility costs and support of improved local SARS-CoV-2 testing. Businesses have sustained a huge impact by the business closures adopted by the State and Assembly along with the collapse of the summer cruise ship and independent traveler tour businesses. Local businesses are the backbone of our economy and the foundation for the CBJ tax base. Their contribution and support of Juneau in the past deserves our assistance now.

This is not a matter that can be delayed. Businesses need help quickly. The CBJ's existing significant fund balances can and should be accessed to pay for at least some of the ESTF suggested programs now. In addition, the State legislature has just approved CARES Act funding, so you now have secondary available funding.

It is very likely that the programs forwarded to you by the ESTF yesterday will be but a first round of assistance. It is likely that the negative economic impact of this virus will continue beyond this summer and that businesses will need additional help to survive through the fall and winter. Please consider that the funding needed will likely be supplemented later, and reserve CARES funding and fund balances accordingly.

Thank you for attention to this very urgent issue affecting Juneau's businesses and ultimately our borough's tax base.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Williams", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Charlie Williams, President

Board of Directors

Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce