

CITY OF SEWARD
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March 26, 2019

Brenda Ahlberg
Kenai Peninsula Borough
144 N. Binkley
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

RE: Cruise ship passenger tax proceeds

Dear Ms. Ahlberg,

On behalf of the community of Seward, I would like to thank the Borough Assembly and administration for allocating the Commercial Passenger Vessel (CPV) excise tax to the cities of Seward and Homer, based on their pro-rata share of cruise ship passengers visiting each port. These funds have been critical to Seward's ability to provide improvements to our port infrastructure in support of cruise ships and their passengers.

The City of Seward was asked to submit a letter requesting their allotment of 2018 cruise ship commercial passenger vessel excise tax proceeds, and to identify the intended use of these funds. AS 43.52.230(b) requires that "a city or borough that receives a payment under this subsection shall use the funds for port facilities, harbor infrastructure, and other services provided to the commercial passenger vessels and the passengers on board those vessels." Seward's planned use of these 'ports-of-call' funds will entirely meet these requirements. We have identified the following projects for utilization of CPV funds, including: 1) replacement of launch ramps in the harbor; 2) shuttle bus transportation for cruise passengers and crew, including preparation of maps showing location of bus stops; 3) ambulance services for cruise vessel responses by SVAC and SVFD; 4) cruise visitor impacts to Port Avenue and library; 5) wayfinding directional signs and information; 6) dock maintenance and repairs; and other port and harbor infrastructure needs.

We appreciate your support of our request, and look forward to working with you to enhance facilities for the cruise ship industry in our region.

Sincerely,


Norm Regis, Interim City Manager