

# Coronavirus Relief Funds

By Felix Rivera

## Communications

-- \$50,000

- On July 28, the Assembly considered and approved AR 2020-273 (item 10.E.7 on that agenda)
- It set aside \$50,000 for the purpose of “funding of an outreach and education program on uses of CARES Act Funding”
- Prior to approval of our CARES Act passage in August, this allocation was used to create a website which put up all our various proposals and sought feedback. We also used social media to solicit additional feedback as well
- After approval of our CARES Act passage in August, this allocation was, and continues, to be used to update our website with the latest information on the programs being rolled out. There should be an overhaul of the website completed in the coming week to provide more information to the public at the request of several members
- At the end of August, \$16,109 of this allocation was spent

# Assembly Department -- \$175,000

- Also on July 28, the Assembly considered and approved AR 2020-274 (item 10.E.8 on that agenda)
- It set aside \$175,000 to “build the capacity of the Assembly Office and Assembly Counsel’s Office to respond to the COVID-19 emergency”
- The description in the AR/AM was as follows:
  - “\$50,000 to Assembly Counsel’s office for purposes of a contract attorney and office management to assist with the increased work demands related to the COVID-19 emergency”
  - “\$125,000 to the Anchorage Assembly for purposes of increasing Assembly capacity through additional aide hours and hiring additional aide staff.

# Assembly Department Continued – Assembly Counsel, \$50,000

- As described to the Assembly via email and at an Assembly meeting, Assembly Counsel led the effort to find and select the contractor to bring on board
- Assembly Counsel primarily used the Alaska Bar Association as a reference for available attorneys and firms
- After reviewing this list, Assembly Counsel chose Wheeler & Associates and produced a sole source memo justifying his selection and requested approval from the Purchasing Department, which was given
- \$2,200 of this allocation has been spent through August 2020

Assembly  
Department  
Continued –  
Anchorage  
Assembly,  
\$125,000

- After approval, I reviewed the record of the meeting, intend as described in the AR/AM, and solicited feedback from the sponsors (Meg Zaletel and Christopher Constant), as well as Assembly leadership, including the Clerk's Office and Vice Chair, to produce the spending plan for this allocation.
- The spending plan was shared with the Assembly via email and further feedback was requested. This was also shared at an Assembly meeting
- All these expenses and positions are through the end of the year
- \$0 of this allocation has been spent

# Assembly Department Continued – Anchorage Assembly, \$125,000

- Assembly COVID-19 Aides: 2 full time contract aides, \$22,400, hiring process led by Vice Chair, applications solicited
  - meant to focus on assisting members with their COVID-19 specific work
- Communications Assistant: 1 part time contract aide, \$16,170, hired through a temp agency
  - to assist with enhanced communications needs of Assembly members, COVID-19 and budget
- IT Assistant: 1 part time contract aide, \$16,170, hired through a temp agency
  - to assist with enhanced IT needs in the Clerk's Office, including Teams and Zoom needs, and other duties as needed
- Zoom Licenses: 2 licenses, \$120
  - to be shared among Assembly members to host various constituent meetings
- Supplies: \$1,500
  - to meet needs of additional contract workers
- Unspent/Miscellaneous: \$56,360
  - no plans to expend money, but will depend on work projects assigned to contract workers