

## Brenwynne Grigg

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 11:44 AM  
**To:** Economic Stabilization; Borough Assembly  
**Subject:** Pandemic Economics in Juneau

### EXTERNAL E-MAIL: BE CAUTIOUS WHEN OPENING FILES OR FOLLOWING LINKS

---

The only formality I will engage in is thanking you for your public service; it is vital to our community. Thank you.

I have spoken with many in the private sector regarding how the consequences of the pandemic will extend in Juneau. Juneau's economy is supported by four pillars: fishing, mining, tourism and government. Fishing and tourism (seasonal) are flattened. Local and state government (operating and capital) will be diminished by the oil price collapse. Mining is the last pillar left and is being buffeted by COVID protocols. We anticipate an exodus from Juneau as the national economy slowly heals while Juneau's remains depressed (because of its seasonal nature) until a possible recovery in May 2021—a full year from now. Residential rentals could have 15% to 30% or even higher vacancy rates. Unemployment could be multiple times normal. Moreover, the downstream consequences of the shut-down sectors will devastate our local economy for months to come. It is critically important the City take thoughtful and decisive action; it should immediately initiate the following action.

1. Impose an immediate, across-the-board 20% pay cut for every City employee. This would be the only mechanism achieve needed savings without mass terminations. This pay reduction may be viewed as the vacation, or other non-essential benefit, these employees are now prevented from purchasing by the COVID crisis anyway.
2. Provide an across-the-board 20% property tax credit for the year 2020 to every property tax account in Juneau. The sacrifices made by the City bureaucracy must be passed to the taxpayers to help ameliorate their overall losses. In this manner the economic hardship is shared by all.
3. Cease any and all financial assistance to anyone that requires drawing from the general fund or any other funds that could be re-directed to City operations. The City cannot afford this kind of response; only the federal government has the ability to print money.
4. Create a program to identify and encourage all retirees to contribute generously to the nonprofits which otherwise depend upon City grants. Many retirees (such as Tier-1) enjoy very generous annuities and they can afford to be more generous in this time of duress.

Needless to say, there will be much complaining if you take the above action. However, true leadership during difficult times is a difficult duty that requires a broad perspective. We are praying for you and we are confident you can meet the challenge.

Yours, for Juneau, Wayne D Coogan, [REDACTED]