

Wall, Katherine

From: Commissioner, D2
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 10:29 AM
To: Abbate, Frank B; Hayes, Jill J; Wall, Katherine; Commissioner, D2
Cc: Dave Berman (dberman@floridatoday.com); Giles Malone
Subject: D2 Small Business Grant Motion for Tomorrow's Meeting

Importance: High

THIS IS
JUST F.Y.I

Dear Team:

I intend to make the following motion tomorrow at the board meeting:

I move to authorize staff to modify procedures with respect to district 2 small business grants **for those district 2 business grantees who have already received \$10,000** from the countywide grant program as follows:

- (1) Staff may implement a requirement that only district 2 businesses in which one or more owners reside in Brevard County will be eligible for additional grant funding; and
- (2) As there are approximately 364 district 2 businesses which received \$10,000 in grant funding, in order to avoid expending hundreds of hours of additional staff time reviewing additional qualifying expenses, review of additional qualifying expenses may be waived.

This motion is made in recognition that there are far more grantees in district 2 than any other district and that the overwhelming majority of these businesses, which have already been vetted once for the initial \$10,000 grant, have at least an additional \$5000 in expenses relating to COVID-19 whether in the initially described time-period and/or in the months following.

As all of this funding originates from post-CARES funds, as a matter of law, there exists no realistic possibility of federal claw-back of this funding as a result of waiving this requirement. Moreover, County Manager Frank Abbate, Budget Director Jill Hayes, and CMO Special Projects Coordinator Kathy Wall have been apprised of this proposed change and have no objection to it.

The alternative, should we not waive the extensive review now required, is that we may spend as much or more in staff expense as we save in adjusting down grant amounts for those anticipated few businesses who do not substantiate the full \$5000 second grant amount. Moreover, checks may be delayed by approximately four weeks should we arbitrarily continue to mandate this level of scrutiny.

The total amount awarded to all district 2 businesses, as a result of this program, will not exceed \$1.82M and is anticipated as falling within the original estimate of \$1.8M given that some of the businesses in district 2 will be owned entirely by individuals residing outside of Brevard County.