



City of Homer

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Memorandum 21-206

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

THROUGH: Julie Engebretsen, Deputy City Planner and Special Projects Coordinator

FROM: Economic Development Advisory Commission

DATE: December 2, 2021

SUBJECT: Recommendation on funding for the Homer Business Advisor Position

The Alaska Small Business Development Center (AKSBDC) has approached the City of Homer with a request for \$25,000 to help fund the part time Homer Business Advisor position. Cliff Cochran, Director of the Kenai Peninsula Center of the SBDC will be giving Council a presentation on what services the SBDC provides, and the economic impact of those services on Homer businesses. (I won't duplicate that information here.)

The Economic Development Commission heard presentations from both the local business advisor Robert Green, and from Mr. Cochran. The EDC supports funding this position in the amount of \$25,000 for one year for the following reasons:

1. Business startups are benefitted by this service, which can help them be successful and grow.
2. There is value in having this service locally available, rather than taking the travel time to meet in the central Peninsula. People running or starting businesses are busy.
3. The increase in sales tax and property tax revenue from private investment should offset the cost to the City.
4. Support of this position is a collaboration; the Chamber of Commerce provides free office space and support services for this position.

Recommendation: Provide funding to the AK SBDC for one year in the amount of \$25,000.