

From: Heidi Owens

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 7:56 AM

To: PublicComment <PublicComment@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Comments on Public Hearing Items for April 21, 2010 Los Gatos Town Council Meeting

Hello Town of Los Gatos,

I would like to make the following comments on agenda items for the April 21, 2020 meeting.

I support the continuation of partial payment to Student Transportation Inc, which is noteworthy to mention is headquartered out of state. The payment should be earmarked as applicable for driver payment only, and not to cover administrative and managerial costs. I am hearing from my community of friends and family that the EDD unemployment office is overwhelmed with requests and they are having trouble processing claims and making payments. I would like to see the local drivers who presumably live within commute distance of Los Gatos paid because I'm not certain that they will be able to get State unemployment assistance in a timely manner. The Town staff report mentions high turnover and difficulty recruiting drivers, so one may presume that whoever was most recently driving may not meet the minimum time of employment to receive EDD payments. This is not a high paying job and the money may be a critical source of income for the drivers. In terms of small business support, there are programs at the Federal and State level that will support ongoing operations of Student Transportation Inc for other administrative and managerial costs. One of the requirements of the Federal program is that small business keep a percentage of their employees on the payroll, so a partial payment from the Town to keep the driver on staff will help the company achieve that requirement. However, I support whatever decision the Council makes because this is not a clear-cut issue and well-argued counterpoints could easily sway my position.

Thank you!

Heidi Owens

Los Gatos Resident and Community Organizer