

Juneau Raptor Center



December 30, 2016

Mr. Rorie Watt, City Manager
City & Borough of Juneau
155 S. Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Marine Passenger Fee Grants

Dear Mr. Watt,

The Juneau Raptor Center (JRC) is a volunteer, non-profit organization serving Juneau and Southeast Alaska since 1987. We provide 24-hour, 365 day emergency on-call service for Juneau's raptors and other wild avians. We rely on donations, memberships, grants, and retail sales of our souvenir merchandise to cover JRC's operating expenses. These costs include but are not limited to veterinary care, transportation of sick and injured birds, and appropriate food for wild birds. Additionally, we provide education programs featuring non-releasable birds to local schools and other regional groups, teaching audiences of all ages the basics and importance of wild bird conservation.

From May through September, we provide an education exhibit atop Mount Roberts in which we house *Lady Baltimore*, a non-releasable American Bald Eagle, for the information and edification of Juneau's many visitors. We train and employ naturalists who care for Lady Baltimore and make presentations to the public. While the Goldbelt Mount Roberts Tramway provides us with space for this wild bird display (aka a 'mew'), we are entirely responsible for the cost of maintaining the facility, paying wages to the naturalists, and caring for the bird.

After many seasons of maintaining our existing mew, and the growing numbers of visitors coming to visit Lady Baltimore, we are in need of replacing and improving the structure. Our present mew has inadequate storage for food and supplies, poor access for people with disabilities, inadequate traffic flow, and is too small for the number of visitors who wish to approach at any one time. As JRC is a service provider, unique visitor attraction and destination in the Capital City, and as we have never received local government funding, **we respectfully request a Marine Passenger Fee grant in the amount of \$60,000.**

If received, these funds would be exclusively used for eagle mew upgrades and improved visitor access and experience. Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. Thank you for considering our request.

Dale Cotton, President
723-1190