



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Administration

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NEWS RELEASE

Mayor Castner Declares Local Emergency

For immediate release March 18, 2020.

COH-COVID-19-003

At 2:30 pm today, Homer Mayor Ken Castner officially declared a Local Emergency in response to the confirmation of new cases of COVID-19 in Alaska and in support of COVID-9 prevention measures being implemented throughout the Borough and the State. Mayor Castner’s declaration is effective for seven days and will go into effect until further notice only after City Council consideration and ratification at their regularly scheduled March 23rd meeting. Accommodations are being made at the Council meeting for proper social distancing and legislation in place to allow telephonic participation.

“The declaration elevates Homer’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to Level 3 status. Under this status, our EOC will continue response coordination under a unified command structure with South Peninsula Hospital, the local Division of Public Health, and other partners. It also activates the continuity of operations plans (COOP) for all City departments, which adds further precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID19) among the public and employees and helps ensure the continuation of essential City services,” City Manager Katie Koester said.

Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 5:00 pm, all City facilities will be closed to the public until further notice. City staff will still be available during regular business hours by telephone and email. Contact information can be found under each department listing on the City website: www.cityofhomer-ak.gov.

Police and fire and emergency medical services will continue to be provided in accordance with Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, state recommendations and area healthcare providers’ protocols. Non-emergency concerns can be addressed by email or by calling Homer Police Department at 907-235-3150 or Homer Fire Department at 235-3155. Call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.

“Though we’re limiting our face-to-face interactions for now, please know that the City is making every effort to maintain essential government services to the public: street maintenance, public safety, water/sewer utilities, and critical administrative and legislative functions,” said City Manager Koester.

“As Alaskans, we are resilient in times of adversity. The conditions we are facing are the same as every other population in the United States. Please exercise some patience and respect. Those that are providing the goods, services and care we need must remain healthy. That includes those working at our pharmacies and grocery stores. Protect yourselves: Be serious about the CDC guidance on hand washing and social distancing. Protect others: After travel outside of Alaska, please go directly home and enter a 14-day self-quarantine. Following these measures will do much to slow the possible spread of the infection on the Kenai Peninsula. Many lives will depend on it. Working together we’ll get through this. For the best information go to coronavirus.alaska.gov or the City’s website,” Mayor Ken Castner.

Contact:

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Posted:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov
Outside City Clerks Office at City Hall,
Homer Public Library & Harbormaster Office



City of Homer

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Office of the Mayor

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Declaration of a Local Emergency

March 18, 2020

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization has characterized a newly discovered Coronavirus, named COVID-19, as posing is significant threat to the world's population; and

WHEREAS, The particular traits and communicability of the virus are enough to predict a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has declared the pandemic to be a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, As the emergency response unfolds, measures have been taken that have disrupted the lives of many Americans and will cast lasting effects upon our communities' prosperity, physical health and mental health, as normalcy is supplanted by isolation and work stoppages; and

WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough, acting under the statutory authority of AS 26.23,140, has declared a disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, Homer City Manager, Katie Koester, acting in accordance with the City of Homer's Emergency Operations Plan, has requested I make this declaration;

NOW THEREFORE, I find that there exists a wide-spread financial and public health emergency that will require unexpected expenditures of public funds that should be separately accounted, to perhaps be eligible for Emergency Disaster Relief; and

FURTHERMORE, I request the Homer City Clerk disseminate this Declaration to the general public and the parties identified in the City of Homer's Emergency Operations Plan.

Ken Castner

Mayor, City of Homer, Alaska

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

