

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 3/16/2020
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2884

**A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Declaring a Local
Emergency in Response to COVID-19 and a Request for State and
Federal Assistance.**

A. WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus (“virus”), a new strain of the coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmittable person to person; and

B. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the virus a pandemic; and

C. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of the virus in Alaska, and since the declaration was announced, the State received confirmation of a positive case of the virus on March 12, 2020; and

D. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

E. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the State of Alaska Legislature announced initial actions to limit the spread of COVID-19, including limiting access to the State Capitol; and

F. WHEREAS, on the afternoon of March 13, 2020, Governor Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska for two weeks;

G. WHEREAS, a substantial number of the workforce in the City & Borough of Juneau have children in the Juneau School District and are now desperately searching for child care solutions;

H. WHEREAS, the economy generated from cruise ship travelers during the short summer months supports the year-round businesses, citizens, and governments in the City & Borough of Juneau; and

I. WHEREAS, the City & Borough of Juneau is a community of approximately 33,000 people that was forecasted to receive approximately 1.4 million cruise ship travelers in 2020; and

J. WHEREAS, the cruise ships that normally come to the City & Borough of Juneau originate from Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, Canada; and

K. WHEREAS, during the week of March 9, 2020, the local economy supported by cruise ship travelers suffered catastrophic news: the State Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended travel restrictions on cruise ships, the Port of Seattle described it was closing its cruise ship terminals in two week increments; at least two cruise lines voluntarily halted all cruise travel for 60 days; and the Prime Minister of Canada closed all cruise ports in Canada until July; and

L. WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses an imminent threat to human health, safety and welfare to the residents of the City and Borough of Juneau (“CBJ”); and

M. WHEREAS, due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, the available CBJ infrastructure and resources, including Bartlett Regional Hospital, Capital City Fire and Rescue, Juneau Police Department, the Juneau International Airport, the Juneau School District, among others, will be likely inadequate to handle the consequences of a COVID-19 outbreak unless the CBJ implements emergency powers; and

N. WHEREAS, it is essential to implement local emergency powers given the potential ability of the virus to cause death or injury to people, necessitating measures to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

O. WHEREAS, in order to contain any potential harm that may be caused by the virus, State and Federal assistance is needed to supplement local efforts to respond to this public health emergency; and

P. WHEREAS, the CBJ is currently in the process of amending CBJC 03.25 – Civil Defense Organization- to reflect modern emergency management operations, including threats to public health; however, pursuant to CBJC 03.25.040(a) and AS 26.23.140, the Assembly may declare the existence of an emergency; and

Q. WHEREAS, the Assembly deems it necessary to declare a local emergency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City and Borough of Juneau; and

R. WHEREAS, the CBJ requests the Governor of Alaska to provide State assistance to the CBJ in its response to the virus, including assistance for fire protection, law enforcement, and the provision of other funds, services, functions, supplies, or materials determined by the Manager, in consultation with local emergency agencies, to be necessary to meet the public safety and welfare needs arising from or incidental to COVID-19 and to recover from the damages caused; and

S. WHEREAS, the CBJ Assembly further authorizes the Manager to implement any orders necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to take measures to ensure that all cases of contagious disease are subject to proper control and treatment; and

T. WHEREAS, the Manager should seek Assembly approval prior to issuing any orders (1) related to private property, (2) related to mass quarantine or isolation, or (3) related to rationing of goods or supplies; and

U. WHEREAS, a public health related order, if any, shall be consistent with federal or state public health official recommendations; and

V. WHEREAS, the provisions of CBJC 53.50 may be suspended as provided under CBJC 53.50.090(l), providing for the purchase of supplies, services, and items during, and for the purpose of alleviating, a class 2 emergency, which the Manager declared on March 12; and

W. WHEREAS, all resources of the municipal government, including CBJ personnel, are hereby available as necessary to deal with the emergency, and municipal departments, agencies, and/or personnel may be transferred or altered in function for the purpose of performing or facilitating performance services responsive to this emergency; and

X. WHEREAS, while the potential extent and effect of COVID-19 cannot yet be known, it remains vital for the CBJ to be prepared and take all needed precautions throughout the entire timeframe of the emergency related to COVID-19; and

Y. WHEREAS, because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, this declaration of local emergency shall remain in effect until November 24, 2020, or until the virus is no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau hereby declares a local emergency to exist within the City and Borough of Juneau. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Section 2. The City and Borough requests that the Governor of Alaska provide such State assistance as may be available to meet the ongoing emergency created by COVID-19 and to request additional assistance from Federal agencies where State capability is not adequate.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Attest:

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk