



CITY OF UNALAKLEET

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CITY OF UNALAKLEET RESOLUTION 2020-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF UNALAKLEET DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has identified the Covid-19 virus as a new strain of Corona-Virus not previously identified in humans, causing respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and which poses a significant public health risk; and

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

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

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020 the City Council recognized the announcement and conducted an Emergency Meeting of the City Council and Local Agencies to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and issued Resolution 2020-02; and

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

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

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 Governor Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska until May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, state and federal actions/reactions are rapidly evolving and changing day by day; and

WHEREAS, the “CDC” has recommended all persons at higher risk for Covid-19 complications avoid all nonessential air travel; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the United States State Department issued a Level 4 Travel Advisory “DO NOT TRAVEL” advising all United States citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, the economy of the City of Unalakleet and the Norton Sound Region is dependent upon the City of Unalakleet continuing to serve as a viable, responsive hub for the Norton Sound Region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalakleet understands that medevac availabilities are limited and so are subject to Norton Sound Health Corporation or other appropriate medical approval; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the City Council passed resolution 2020-02 to follow the travel and quarantine mandates set by the Governor of the State of Alaska, the "CDC" and the Unalakleet "TRI-ORG" consisting of the City of Unalakleet, the Unalakleet Native Corporation and Native Village of Unalakleet elected officials; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020 the "TRI-ORG" put in place a Travel Ban for the City of Unalakleet; and

WHEREAS, the City is discouraging any travel of visitors into Unalakleet, understanding that we are a HUB and this cannot be avoided and essential and nonessential travel is understood; and

WHEREAS, all people traveling in and out of the village must self-quarantine, along with all their household members if they are in physical contact with them, for the mandatory 14 days if they are returning into Unalakleet; and

WHEREAS, freight planes are flying into Unalakleet to provide essential supplies to sustain the city and bringing supplies necessary to assist with an outbreak, if or when, that may occur in the community from the Covid-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, grocery store hours are set-aside for Elders and those with underlying conditions. Unalakleet Native Corporation Store hours are 9am till 7pm and shopping for Elders and those with underlying conditions is from 1:30pm -2:30pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Alaska Commercial Company Store hours are 9am -7pm and shopping for Elders and those with underlying conditions is from 8am-9am; and

WHEREAS, all restaurants shall be take out only; and

WHEREAS, due to the restrictions placed by the State of Alaska mandates, this has put a financial strain on local businesses and local government agencies; and

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

WHEREAS, Covid-19 poses an imminent threat to human health, safety and welfare of the residents of Unalakleet, and First Responders in Unalakleet will be on the frontline of the response to this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary to declare an emergency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City of Unalakleet and residents of the Bering Strait Region who frequent the City of Unalakleet; and

WHEREAS, due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, the infrastructure and resources available to the City of Unalakleet and all local partners, including the Unalakleet Native Corporation, the Native Village of Unalakleet, the Anikkan Inuit Iluuqtaat Sub-regional Clinic, City of Unalakleet Volunteer Fire Department, City of Unalakleet Police Department, City of Unalakleet Public Works Department, Unalakleet Airport, Bering Strait School District, Unalakleet Valley Electric Cooperative, and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation among others, will be likely inadequate to handle the consequences of a Covid-19 outbreak unless the City of Unalakleet implements emergency powers; and

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 of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalakleet Water and Sewer infrastructure is failing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalakleet water and sewer infrastructure was installed in Unalakleet as a “test community” for water and sewer to other communities in Northern Alaska by Public Health Service in the 1960’s; and

WHEREAS, the water/sewer infrastructure is well over its life expectancy of 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalakleet has had to bear the burden of this failing system (low water storage tank levels, Boil water notices, inadequate amount of water from the current water source, erosion of water line into village, lead and copper lines, broken pipes, constant freezing of service lines, failing service lines due to chemical water treatment) through wages, parts and equipment failures due to do the band-aid repairs on the failing system, which has caused hardship on the City because it also provides other necessary services to the community; and

WHEREAS, due to Covid-19, the pandemic is putting a strain on our failing system due to mandates issued by the “CDC” (i.e. wash your hands for the mandatory 20 seconds, be clean, launder porous materials, always use hot soapy water, and to drink water to stay hydrated) along with others; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalakleet requests the Governor of Alaska provide state assistance to the City of Unalakleet in its response to the virus, including assistance for emergency preparations, fire protection, law enforcement, water and sewer, and the provisions of other funds, services, functions, supplies, or materials determined by the City Council, in consultation with local emergency providers and local partners, which may 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

WHEREAS, a public health related order, if any, shall be consistent with state, federal or Norton Sound Health Corporation public Health official recommendations; and

WHEREAS, while the potential extent and effect of Covid-19 cannot yet be known, it remains vital for the City of Unalakleet to be prepared and take all necessary precautions throughout the entire timeframe of the emergency related to Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, all resources of the municipal government, including the City of Unalakleet 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 the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, due to the ongoing nature of the emergency, this declaration of emergency shall remain in effect until November 30, 2020 or until the virus is no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNALAKLEET, ALASKA:

SECTION 1. Emergency Declared. The City Council of the City of Unalakleet along with partnering organizations, the Unalakleet Native Corporation and Native Village of Unalakleet ("TRI-ORG"), hereby declare an emergency. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Bering Straits Regional Corporation, Unalakleet Native Corporation, Native Village of Unalakleet, Alaska Municipal League, Kawerak, DCRA and Bering Strait School District.

SECTION 2. State and Federal Assistance Requested. The City of Unalakleet along with strong support of its Partnering organizations, the Unalakleet Native Corporation, and the Native Village of Unalakleet ("TRI-ORG") 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 upon its adoption.

FURTHERMORE, the Unalakleet City Council will be following any actions and mandates deemed necessary by the Governor of the State of Alaska and any other recommendations and orders from the "TRI-ORG" consisting of the elected officials from each of our partnering organizations Native Village of Unalakleet, Unalakleet Native Corporation and the City of Unalakleet.



PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Unalakleet, Alaska this 20th day of March, 2020.



Davida Hanson, Mayor


Attest: Kelly Otton, City Clerk

With the Strong support of :


Sherilee Ivanoff, Vice President
Native Village of Unalakleet
Steve Ivanoff, President
Unalakleet Native Corporation