

CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA
ORDINANCE NO. 976

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA DECLARING AN EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC AND GRANTING AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH DURING THE EMERGENCY

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

WHEREAS, COVID-19, or the novel coronavirus, is a contagious virus that is actively spreading across the world, including in the United States, and specifically now in Alaska with three confirmed cases; and,

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the virus a pandemic; Alaska Governor Dunleavy issued a declaration of public health disaster emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of COVID-19 in Alaska; and on March 13, 2020 President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, public health officials describe that COVID-19 is most severe in people older than 60 and people with underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Wrangell, Alaska has one of, if not the, highest number of senior citizens per capita of any community in Alaska; meaning a significant portion of the Wrangell population is at high risk for COVID-19 and related complications; and

WHEREAS, complications from COVID-19 can, among other things, include severe respiratory distress, which may require the use of a ventilator to assist with breathing; and

WHEREAS, Wrangell Medical Center only has three ventilators, so even a small outbreak of persons with COVID-19 related respiratory complications has the potential to overwhelm the capacity of the local healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, the spread of the virus in other areas, specifically those typically used as Medievac destinations from Wrangell (like Seattle), may overwhelm those healthcare capacities and make care on Wrangell Island the only available option; and

WHEREAS, the expected economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the cancellation and delay of cruise traffic through Canada to Southeast Alaska, has the potential to catastrophically impact the local economy; and

WHEREAS, local emergency actions taken to proactively prevent and mitigate the spread of the virus have the potential to severely impact the finances of local businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, Wrangell, Alaska is a remote island community to which all food, supplies, and goods must be shipped by barge or by plane, almost exclusively through the Port of Seattle where there is a major outbreak of COVID-19 which could interrupt the supply chain of critical resources for the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA:

SECTION 1: AUTHORIZATION. This is a non-codified EMERGENCY ORDINANCE provided for in the Home Rule Charter of the City & Borough of Wrangell, Alaska Section 2-11.

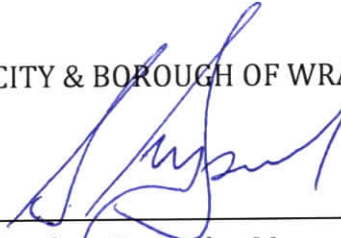
SECTION 2: DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska hereby declares an emergency for the City and Borough of Wrangell related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.

SECTION 3: EMERGENCY ORDERS. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska hereby grants authority to the Borough Manager and Mayor to issue Emergency Orders taking steps necessary to protect public health during the emergency, with notification given to Assembly Members prior to issuance of any Emergency Order.

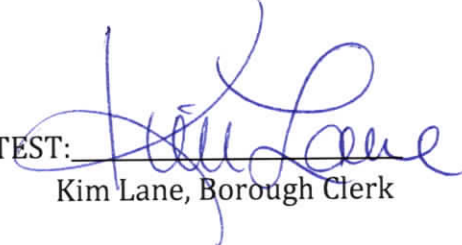
SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATES. This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption and shall sunset October 17, 2020 or until the virus is no longer declared a federal and state emergency, whichever occurs first.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH, 2020.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA



Stephen Prysunka, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Kim Lane, Borough Clerk

