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.

CITY & BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA

Stephen Prysunka, Mayor

ATTEST:
Kim Lane, Borough Clerk

[Stamp: City & Borough of Wrangell]
Incorporated Borough
May 30, 1960
Incorporated City
June 15, 1903
Alaska