



CITY OF WALES  
RESOLUTION #2020-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WALES DECLARING 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 (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 (State) 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 21, 2020 the Wales City Council (Council) recognized the announcement and conducted an Emergency Meeting of the Council, Native Village of Wales (Tribal Council), and Wales Native Corporation (Board of Directors) to take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and issued Resolution #2020-05; 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 the Virus, 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 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 State citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of Covid-19; and

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

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

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2020 the Council passed resolution 2020-05 to follow the travel and quarantine mandates or travel restrictions set by the Governor of the State of Alaska, CDC, Bering Air, and the local entities consisting of the City of Wales, the Native Village of Wales, and the Wales Native Corporation elected officials; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2020 the Wales Entities put in place Travel Restrictions Mandated By the State for the Community of Wales; and

WHEREAS, all people traveling, by any method of travel, in and out of the village must self-quarantine, along with all their household members since they are in physical contact with them, for the mandatory 14 days if they are returning to, or traveling to Wales; and

WHEREAS, freight planes will fly into Wales 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, the two grocery stores will set-aside special hours for Elders and those that are higher risk, Wales Native Store hours and are as follows: Mon. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. (noon), and only taking purchase orders at the door or over the phone, for purchase and pick up; the WNC hours for Elders and higher risk individuals are as follows: Mon. to Fri. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Sat. is 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Sunday being closed all day.

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

WHEREAS, in order to contain any potential harm that may be cause 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 residents of the City of Wales and residents of the Bering Strait Region who frequent the City of Wales; and

WHEREAS, due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, the infrastructure and resources available to the City of Wales, Wales Native Corporation, Wales Native Store, Toby Anungazuk SR. Memorial Clinic, Wales Post Office, and Kingikmuit School among others, will be likely inadequate to handle the consequences of a Covid-19 outbreak unless the City of Wales implements emergency powers; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to implement local emergency powers, preferably the Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP), 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 Wales Water and Sewer infrastructure is outdated and in the process of replacement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wales has had to bear the burden of this outdated system (low water storage tank levels, Boil water notices, inadequate amount of water from the current water source, erosion of the water line into village, lead the copper lines, broken pipes, constant freezing of service line, failing service lines due to chemical water treatment) through wages, parts and equipment failures due to the band-aid



repairs on the outdated system, which has caused hardship on the City because it also provides other necessary services to the community; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Wales requests the Governor of Alaska provide state assistance to the City of Wales in its response to the virus, including assistance for emergency preparation, 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 Wales 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 Wales personnel, are hereby available as necessary to deal with 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 till November 30, 2020 or until the virus is no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WALES, ALAKSA:

**SECTION 1. EMERGENCY DECLARED.** The City of Wales along with partnering organizations, the Native Village of Wales and the Wales Native Corporation (Wales Entities), hereby declare an emergency. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Bering Strait Regional Corporation, Wales Native Corporation, Native Village of Wales, Alaska Municipal League, Kawerak, NSHC, DCRA and Bering Strait School District.

**SECTION 2. STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTED.** The City of Wales along with strong support of its Partnering organizations, the Wales Native Corporation and the Native Village of Wales (Wales Entities) requests that the Governor of Alaska provide such state assistance as may be federal agencies where state capability is not adequate.

**SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon is adoption.

FUTHERMORE, the City of Wales 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 "Wales Entities"

consisting of the elected officials from each of our partnering organizations Native Village of Wales, Wales Native Corporation and the City of Wales.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council of the City of Wales, Alaska this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.



Sean Komonaseak Sr., Mayor

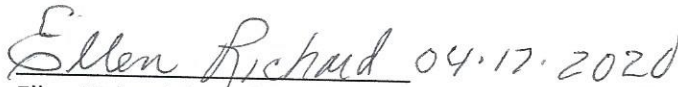


Attest: Rachel Kitchen, City Clerk

With the Support of:

 04/17/20

Anna Oxereok, President  
Native Village of Wales

 04.17.2020

Ellen Richard, President  
Wales Native Corporation