

## RESOLUTION #2021-07

**Requesting renewed State support and increased funding for local emergency planning committees and preparedness.**

WHEREAS, the State has a long history of providing support for local emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, local preparedness contributes to the ability of the State to respond effectively in the case of a crisis; and

WHEREAS, State support has come in the form of technical resources, as well as financial aid that helps local governments form and sustain local emergency planning committees; and

WHEREAS, the State had conducted some of this collaboration through DMVA's Local Emergency Planning Committees; and

WHEREAS, in FY19 the State funded LEPCs at \$298,500, in FY20 all of the LEPC funding of \$225,000 was vetoed from the State's budget, and in FY20 eliminated from the budget entirely; and

WHEREAS, the justification for those reductions note that "communities can apply for grants through other sources including DCCED and the federal government" and that "the State's fiscal reality dictates a reduction in expenditures;" and

WHEREAS, many local governments were unable to sustain LEPCs on their own, and were not able to identify grants corresponding to this need, while others saw their preparedness reduced dramatically; and

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 public health emergency highlighted challenges related to these gaps, wherein lack of funding has resulted in a less effective response than could otherwise have been in place; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's public safety and health are dependent on strong public institutions that are able to

- 1) communicate local, on the ground information to state and federal decision makers,
- 2) engage with and partner at the State and federal level; and
- 3) assist in implementing state and federal guidance; and

WHEREAS, while recognizing the State's fiscal reality, the public health emergency and economic crisis, 2019 earthquakes and fire season, and future emergencies necessitate capacity at the local level that assists in the State response; and

WHEREAS, the State investment in local planning efforts saves the State time and funding later during an actual emergency, as systems are in place to coordinate response.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests renewed State support and increasing funding for local emergency planning committees and preparedness.