



City and Borough of Sitka

PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

A Coast Guard City

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

From: Assembly Members Christianson and Himschoot

Date: July 26, 2021

Subject: Approval of emergency ordinance providing housing for travelers

Background

In order to safely host visitors in Sitka during a pandemic mitigations are required. Along with a high vaccination rate and broad use of masks, Sitka also has a robust testing program through the local hospital. However, because of high occupancy numbers there is no guarantee a visitor who tests positive will be able to find a room for 10 days of quarantine. This ordinance pays a local hotel or lodge to reserve two rooms for emergency use as needed. There is room to partner with other organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Sitka Tribe or Alaska Airlines to hold even more rooms. Visitors using these rooms would be required to show proof of a positive Covid test after their arrival to Sitka, and they would be expected to pay for the room and sign an affidavit stating they will abide by the rules of quarantine by isolating in the room provided.

Analysis

Providing rooms may remove one barrier to visitors with a positive Covid test choosing to follow recommendations for quarantine.

Fiscal Note

Two rooms in a local hotel, if unused and therefore fully funded by CBS, would cost roughly \$40,000.