

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve Resolution 2020-05 on first and final reading continuing the Declaration by the Municipal Administrator of a Local Disaster Emergency in response to COVID-19 and a request for State and Federal assistance.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA CONTINUING
THE DECLARATION BY THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR OF A LOCAL
DISASTER EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND A REQUEST
FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.**

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

WHEREAS, on the afternoon of March 13, 2020, Governor Michael J. Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska for two weeks;

WHEREAS, a substantial number of the workforce in the City and Borough of Sitka (“CBS”) have children in the Sitka School District and are now desperately searching for childcare solutions;

WHEREAS, the economy generated from cruise ship travelers during the short summer months supports the year-round businesses, citizens, and governments in the CBS; and

WHEREAS, the CBS is a community of approximately 8,500 people that was forecasted to receive approximately 200 thousand cruise ship travelers in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the cruise ships that normally come to the CBS originate from Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, Canada; and

WHEREAS, during the week of March 9, 2020, the local economy supported by cruise ship travelers suffered catastrophic news: the State Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended travel restrictions on cruise ships, the Port of Seattle described it was closing its cruise ship terminals in two week increments; at least two cruise lines voluntarily halted all cruise travel for 60 days; and the Prime Minister of Canada closed all cruise ports in Canada until July; and

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52 WHEREAS, COVID-19 poses an imminent threat to human health, safety and welfare to the
53 residents of the CBS; and

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55 WHEREAS, due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, the available CBS infrastructure and
56 resources, including Mount Edgecumbe Medical Center, the Sitka Airport, the Sitka School District,
57 among others, will be likely inadequate to handle the consequences of a COVID-19 outbreak unless
58 the CBS implements emergency powers; and

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60 WHEREAS, it is essential to implement local emergency powers given the potential ability of the
61 virus to cause injury or death to people, necessitating measures to protect the public health, safety, and
62 welfare; and

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64 WHEREAS, in order to contain any potential harm that may be caused by the virus, State and
65 Federal assistance is needed to supplement local efforts to respond to this public health emergency;
66 and

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68 WHEREAS, in accordance with AS 26.23.140 a local disaster emergency may be declared only by
69 the principal executive officer of a political subdivision, which in the case of the CBS is the Municipal
70 Administrator, and any such declaration may not be continued or renewed for a period in excess of
71 seven days, except by or with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision, which in
72 the case of the CBS is the Assembly; and

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74 WHEREAS, in accordance with AS 26.23.140, the CBS Municipal Administrator, John M. Leach,
75 on March 15, 2020, declared a local disaster emergency in response to COVID-19 (copy attached) and
76 he has requested a continuance of that declaration, by the Assembly, in accordance with AS 26.23.140;
77 and

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79 WHEREAS, the Assembly deems it necessary to continue said declaration of a local disaster
80 emergency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the CBS; and

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82 WHEREAS, the Assembly deems it necessary, through the Municipal Administrator, to request
83 the Governor of Alaska to provide State assistance to the CBS in its response to the virus, including
84 assistance for fire protection, law enforcement, and the provision of other funds, services, functions,
85 supplies, or materials determined by the Administrator, in consultation with local emergency agencies,
86 to be necessary to meet the public health, safety, and welfare needs arising from or incidental to
87 COVID-19 and to recover from the damages caused; and

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89 WHEREAS, the Assembly deems it necessary to authorize and direct the Administrator to
90 implement any orders necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to take measures
91 to ensure that all cases of contagious disease are subject to proper control and treatment; and

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93 WHEREAS, the Assembly deems it necessary to make all resources of the municipal government,
94 including CBS personnel, available as necessary to deal with the emergency, and municipal
95 departments, agencies, and/or personnel may be transferred or altered in function for the purpose of
96 performing or facilitating performance services responsive to this emergency; and

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102 WHEREAS, while the potential extent and effect of COVID-19 cannot yet be known, it remains
103 vital for the CBS to be prepared and take all needed precautions throughout the entire timeframe of the
104 emergency related to COVID-19; and

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106 WHEREAS, because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, the Assembly deems it necessary to
107 continue said declaration of a local disaster emergency until November 24, 2020, or until the virus is
108 no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first.

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110 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND**
111 **BOROUGH OF SITKA, ALASKA:**

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113 **Section 1.** The Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka hereby continues the declaration of a
114 local disaster emergency by the Municipal Administrator, on March 15, 2020, with respect to the
115 COVID-19 virus. Said declaration shall remain in effect until November 24, 2020, or until the virus is
116 no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first. The Municipal Administrator
117 is hereby authorized and directed to give this Resolution prompt and general publicity and to file it
118 promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

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120 **Section 2.** As authorized by AS 26.23.140, this Resolution is intended to activate the response and
121 recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans, and to
122 authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under those plans.

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124 **Section 3.** The Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to request that the
125 Governor of Alaska provide such State assistance as may be available to meet the ongoing emergency
126 created by COVID-19 and to request additional assistance from Federal agencies where State
127 capability is not adequate. Further, the Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to
128 issue and implement any orders necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to take
129 measures to ensure that all cases of contagious disease are subject to proper control and treatment. In
130 addition, the Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to make all resources of the
131 municipal government, including CBS personnel, available as necessary to deal with this emergency,
132 and municipal departments, agencies, and/or personnel may be transferred or altered in function for the
133 purpose of performing or facilitating performance services responsive to this emergency.

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135 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its
136 adoption.

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138 **SIGNED** in Sitka, Alaska this 16th day of March 2020

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142 Gary L. Paxton, Mayor

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144 ATTEST:

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146 Sara Peterson, MMC
147 Municipal Clerk

148 1st and final reading 3/16/2020