

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA FORMALLY SUPPORTING THE
IDEA THE ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION SUPPORT AND RECOMMEND THE
STATE OF ALASKA INCLUDE FUNDING FOR THIS TOP CIVIC PROJECT TO INCLUDE
IMPROVEMENTS, EXPANSION AND CONSTRUCTION OF
ALASKA CENTENNIAL CENTER MEMORIALIZING THE
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALASKA PURCHASE
IN SITKA, ALASKA**

WHEREAS, Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell is looking for ideas on how Alaska should celebrate the upcoming anniversary of where Russia turned Alaska over to the U.S. 150 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Sitka is Home of the Alaska Purchase; and

WHEREAS, the Lt. Governor said "An Alaska Purchase celebration can show that the myth of 'Seward's Folly' is over. As we mark these events, we hope to inspire the study of our history and culture in our schools, spur tourism, and support our parks, museums and libraries."

WHEREAS, the 1967 centennial celebration of the Alaska Purchase was marked by events and exhibits, and construction or refurbishment of numerous civic building projects around the state and included the Alaska State Museum, and the Centennial Hall here in Sitka; and

WHEREAS, the state anniversary celebration effort is headed up by the Alaska Historical Commission, a 9-member state citizens' board chaired by Lt. Gov. Treadwell, which advises the governor and legislature on matters of importance regarding the state's history and archaeology; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Historical Commission has already begun to gather ideas on the 150th anniversary of America's purchase of Alaska from Russia to be held in 2017; and

WHEREAS, since 1967 and as part of the centennial of the Alaska Purchase, Harrigan Centennial Hall was constructed and continues to stand as a community landmark celebrating its' 50th year of service. It is heavily utilized by visitors and by the community of Sitka as a whole, and due to the high rate of use it badly needs to be remodeled and expanded to meet current uses; and

WHEREAS, there are currently extensive renovation plans for the Harrigan Centennial Hall expansion, for the adjacent Kettleon Memorial Library, and the adjoining Sitka

Historical Museum, and associated parking; all centered in or adjacent Harrigan Centennial Hall; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has graciously committed \$6-million towards these independent projects; Centennial Hall and Museum including Parking, and the City and Borough of Sitka has requested an additional \$9.8-million in this year's capital funding requests including the Library. Even with these allocations there will be a significant shortfall for completing the proposed Alaska Centennial Center with an estimated total cost of \$27.4-million, in time for the State's 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2017; and


WHEREAS, unfortunately, Sitka has recently learned that much of these plans, though badly needed, may have to be shelved since many of the renovations, improvements and construction were planned in part or in whole utilizing Passenger Fee Fund revenues; for Sitka there is a significant projected decline of these funds beginning in 2012.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH of Sitka, Alaska sees no better tribute than for the State of Alaska to invest in the City where the historical transfer of Alaska from the Russians took place and urges the Alaska Historical Commission to make this their top civic building project - to support and pursue funding for the improvements, enlargement and/or construction of Harrigan Centennial Hall, Sitka Historical Museum, Kettleson Library and surrounding parks and parking places; all of which will inspire history, spur tourism and support our parks, museum, and libraries. A centralized place in Sitka where citizens and visitors alike can celebrate and learn of the historical event that gave birth to the State of Alaska.

Signed and sealed on this 27th day of March, 2012.


Cheryl Westover, Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk