

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Assembly deems it necessary to make all resources of the municipal government, including CBS personnel, available as necessary to deal with the 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 this emergency; and

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

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

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

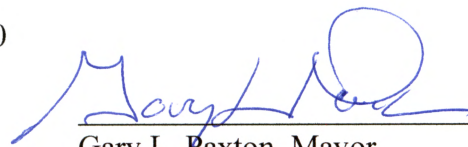
Section 1. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka hereby continues the declaration of a local disaster emergency by the Municipal Administrator, on March 15, 2020, with respect to the COVID-19 virus. Said declaration shall remain in effect until November 24, 2020, or until the virus is no longer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

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

Section 3. The Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to request that the Governor of Alaska provide such State assistance as may be available to meet the ongoing emergency created by COVID-19 and to request additional assistance from Federal agencies where State capability is not adequate. Further, the Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to issue and implement any orders necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to take measures to ensure that all cases of contagious disease are subject to proper control and treatment. In addition, the Municipal Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to make all resources of the municipal government, including CBS personnel, available as necessary to deal with this 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 this emergency.

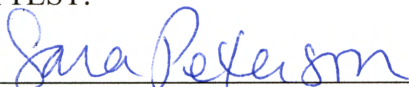
Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

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



Gary L. Paxton, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading 3/16/2020
Sponsor: Administrator