



# City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

*Coast Guard City, USA*

## DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

**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; Alaska Governor Dunleavy issued a declaration of public health disaster emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of COVID-19 in Alaska; and on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, a positive case of COVID-19 has been identified within the State of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Governor Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska for two weeks; and multiple other facilities and services in Sitka were suspended due to precautionary methods for protecting community from the COVID-19 virus; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the Prime Minister of Canada closed all cruise ship ports in Canada until July 2020, which will dramatically impact the cruise ship calls into Sitka with a substantial effect to the Sitka economy; and

**WHEREAS**, a declaration of disaster emergency will alert the public to the seriousness of the risk, and provide direction to sources of information and other available public health resources, all while the City and Borough works in cooperation with other local and state agencies through the Sitka Emergency Operations Center to implement actions and responses to address the probable COVID-19 outbreak.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in accordance with the recommendations of the Sitka Emergency Operations Center, I now declare a disaster emergency in the City and Borough of Sitka based on the risk to the public posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the substantial economic impacts to the City and Borough of Sitka. As provided by AS 26.23.140, the intent of this declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or interjurisdictional disaster or emergency plans, and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under those plans. Further, I hereby request that the Assembly continue this declaration until November 24, 2020, or until the virus is no longer declared a federal or state emergency, whichever occurs first.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020

ATTEST:

Sara Peterson

Municipal Clerk

John Leach

Municipal Administrator