

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA  
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2021-25

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA PROVIDING  
LODGING FOR NON-RESIDENT TRAVELERS STRANDED IN SITKA DUE TO POSITIVE  
COVID-19 TEST RESULTS

**FAILED ON FIRST READING 7/29/2021**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka as follows:

**1. CLASSIFICATION.** This emergency ordinance is not of a permanent nature and is not intended to be a part of the Sitka General Code of the City and Borough of Sitka.

**2. SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this emergency ordinance and application thereof to any person and circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this emergency ordinance and application thereof to any person and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

**3. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this emergency ordinance is recited as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Sitka is experiencing a substantial increase in COVID-19 cases which are primarily attributed to the Delta variant and Sitka has been in the COVID-19 high alert status, with steady positive tests and hospitalizations, and even a resident death, since July 5, 2021, and Sitka is currently experiencing one of the highest rates of persons testing positive for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the quarantine and isolation for 10 days for non-resident travelers who test positive for COVID-19 causes great financial hardships and inconvenience for those persons and their dependents; and

**WHEREAS**, federal financial support for persons required to quarantine and isolate expired on December 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, a non-resident traveler to Sitka who tests positive for COVID-19 while in Sitka is required by the State of Alaska to quarantine and isolate for 10 days in Sitka before leaving Sitka; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability of lodging for those non-resident travelers who test positive such that they can quarantine and isolate for 10 days is currently severely limited, or maybe non-existent, and such limitation is expected to continue through the summer; and

**WHEREAS**, the circumstances described above have and will cause financial hardship and inconvenience to said non-resident travelers and, if said non-resident travelers fail to comply with the quarantine and isolation requirements, puts Sitkans at risk of increased COVID-19 infections.

**4. ENACTMENT.** NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) that the City and Borough of Sitka will secure and pay for two lodgings, double occupancy, for the purpose of making them available to non-resident travelers who test

positive for COVID-19 and are required to quarantine and isolate in Sitka for 10 days. Any such traveler in need of lodging may request the same from the Municipal Administrator or his designee. The traveler must pay the CBS in advance for the lodging. The funds for holding this lodging shall be implemented with a supplemental appropriation from the CBS General Fund, not to exceed \$40,000. The Municipal Administrator is directed to seek contributions from other private and/or public sources for these purposes.

**5. EMERGENCY DECLARATION:** The Assembly hereby finds that the facts and legislative findings set forth above in Section 3 constitute an emergency as required by the Home Rule Charter of the City and Borough of Sitka, Section 3.03 "Emergency Ordinances."

**6. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This emergency ordinance shall become effective on the day it is adopted and expires at midnight on September 28, 2021, which is 61 days after adoption, the maximum duration permitted by Charter.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka this 29th day of July, 2021.

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Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> and final reading – 7/29/2021 in accordance with Home Rule Charter, Section 3.03.

This emergency ordinance is pre-scheduled for the regular meeting of the Assembly on 9/28/2021 to consider re-enactment upon its expiration on 9/28/2021.

Sponsors: Christianson / Himschoot