

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-29

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA REESTABLISHING A
CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE TO ADVISE THE ASSEMBLY ON METHODS FOR
PLANNING AND MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

WHEREAS, we the duly elected representatives of the City and Borough of Sitka (Sitka Assembly) are concerned for the well-being of future generations; and,

WHEREAS, the Sitka Assembly is aware of the Alaska Federation of Natives declaration by resolution of “a state of emergency on climate change” and the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee resolution also declaring a state of emergency; and,

WHEREAS, we believe the climate in Alaska is changing at a more rapid rate than most of the rest of the globe including alarming changes in our marine and coastal environments including fisheries, marine mammal migrations, extreme weather events, glacial melt and snow pack changes; and,

WHEREAS, we further believe the climate emergency also disproportionately impacts the indigenous people of Alaska and their traditional ways of life, which is particularly threatened due to their reliance on Alaska's natural systems, which they have been stewards of since time immemorial; a fact recognized by the Alaska Federation of Natives, the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska with a membership including tribes, village and regional corporations, and regional nonprofit tribal consortiums; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of Sitka are reliant on our oceans and forests and the wildlife and resources contained within them, in our economies, including fisheries, and tourism, and our way of life, including subsistence food gathering, and a cultural and historical importance; and,

WHEREAS, the Sitka Assembly supports all cultural, traditional and subsistence activities historically and continually practiced by Native and non-Native peoples in the State of Alaska and these practices are being irreparably harmed by major changes in our climate; and,

WHEREAS, the Sitka Assembly established a Climate Action Plan Task Force on June 26, 2008, Resolution No. 2008-19, which was a special committee established under the Sitka General Code, Sections 2.04.040.A and 2.04.150.C, which the Sitka Assembly now desires to reestablish.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sitka Assembly declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sitka Assembly hereby authorizes the reestablishment of a Climate Action Plan Task Force, which shall be a special committee to be established under Sitka General Code, Sections 2.04.040A and 2.04.150C; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall consist of at least seven but no more than twelve diverse members appointed by the Sitka Assembly, which will attempt to appoint those who have climate change concerns, such as representatives from various groups including the youth, science, business, construction, tribal government, energy, environmental, fishing, tourism, and economic development sectors of the community; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall be responsible for studying and making recommendations to the Sitka Assembly on ways to plan for and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the City and Borough of Sitka's economy, infrastructure and future development, and methods the City and Borough of Sitka can employ to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force selection process be completed within 3 months of the signing of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 10th day of November, 2020.

Steven Eisenbeiz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading 11/10/2020

Sponsors: Nelson and Mosher