

**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY20-11**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS
DECLARING A LOCAL 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 Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska for two weeks; and

WHEREAS, a substantial number of the workforce in the City of Gustavus have children attending the Gustavus School and are now desperately searching for childcare solutions; and

WHEREAS, the economy generated from independent and cruise ship travelers during the short summer months supports the year-round businesses, citizens, and governments in the City of Gustavus; and

WHEREAS, the cruise ships that normally come to Glacier Bay and contribute to the economy of the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve which contributes to the economy of the City of Gustavus originate from Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, Canada; and

WHEREAS, during the week of March 9, 2020, the local economy supported by the independent and 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 City of Gustavus; and

WHEREAS, due to the highly contagious nature of the virus, the available City of Gustavus infrastructure and resources, including the SEARHC clinic, Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department, the Gustavus International Airport, the Gustavus School, among others, will likely be inadequate to handle the consequences of a COVID-19 outbreak unless the City implements emergency powers; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to implement local emergency powers given the potential ability of the virus to cause death or injury 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, pursuant to AS 26.23.140. Local Disaster Emergencies, the Gustavus City Council may declare the existence of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Gustavus City Council deems it necessary to declare a local emergency to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Gustavus; and

WHEREAS, the Gustavus City Council requests the Governor of Alaska to provide State assistance to the City in its response to the virus, including assistance for fire protection, EMS and emergency medical (EMS) services and the provision of other funds, services, functions, supplies, or materials determined by the Mayor or his/her designee, in consultation with local emergency agencies, to be necessary to meet the public safety and welfare needs arising from or incidental to COVID-19 and to recover from the damages caused; and

WHEREAS, all resources of the City government, including City personnel, are hereby available as necessary to deal with the emergency, and 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 City of Gustavus 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, this declaration of local emergency shall remain in effect 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, that the Gustavus City Council adopts Resolution CY20-11 providing:

Section 1. The City of Gustavus hereby declares a local emergency to exist within the

City. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Section 2. The City of Gustavus requests 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.

Section 3. Upon the direction of the Gustavus City Council, the City Mayor shall implement any State of Alaska public health related orders which are consistent with federal or state public health official recommendations required to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and to take measures to ensure that all cases of COVID-19 are subject to proper control and treatment.

Section 4. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Gustavus City Council this 24th day of March 2020, and effective upon adoption.



Brittny Cannamore, Acting Mayor



Attest: Karen Platt CMC, City Clerk