

1 By: Liz Lyke
2 Matt Cooper
3 Leah Berman Williams
4 Introduced: 11/12/2020
5 Amended: 11/12/2020
6 Adopted: 11/12/2020
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8 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
9

10 RESOLUTION NO. 2020 – 44
11

12 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FOR THE GOVERNOR OR LEGISLATURE TO CALL A
13 SPECIAL SESSION TO EXTEND THE DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER
14 EMERGENCY FOR THE EXTENT OF THE PANDEMIC; AND TO EXTEND THE
15 DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY
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17 WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
18 (CDC) has identified COVID-19, as a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness
19 or death and that is a new strain of coronavirus not previously identified in humans, as
20 posing a significant public health risk; and
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22 WHEREAS, On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization designated
23 the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and
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25 WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, the United States Health and Human
26 Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United
27 States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and
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29 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been spreading rapidly in other states resulting
30 in implementation of public health actions to contain the spread of COVID-19; and
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32 WHEREAS, The outbreak of COVID-19 impacts every community in the
33 State of Alaska and significantly affects the life and health of Alaskans statewide; and
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35 WHEREAS, Recent positivity rates indicate uncontrolled community spread
36 throughout the state, most worryingly in areas of rural Alaska with poor health care
37 infrastructure;
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39 WHEREAS, Case rates around the state are increasing at an increasing rate,
40 and;
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42 WHEREAS, The statewide response under Alaska Statute 18.15.390,
43 coordinated by DHSS, is needed to fully address this condition of public health
44 importance; and

45 WHEREAS, As a second class borough, the Fairbanks North Star Borough
46 lacks health powers and therefore cannot enact mandates and mitigation measures and
47 cannot spend its own tax revenues on health and social services responses to the
48 pandemic; and

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50 WHEREAS, If the State Declaration expires, there are implications locally
51 including that the borough may have limited eligibility for future federal grant monies
52 related to the COVID pandemic and the use of the Carlson Center as an alternative
53 hospital site may be jeopardized; further, there are concerns that Alaska may not qualify
54 for federal waivers for delivering certain health care services and that the state may not
55 continue to provide much needed support for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic;
56 and

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58 WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy has issued a new Public Health Disaster
59 Emergency, expiring on December 15, 2020.

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61 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks
62 North Star Borough calls upon Governor Dunleavy to call a special session of the Alaska
63 State Legislature to grant an extension of the current State of Alaska Declaration of the
64 Public Health Disaster Emergency through March 31, 2021 or when the commissioner of
65 health and social services determines there is sufficiently low pandemic activity to justify
66 a reduction in response activities;

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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star
69 Borough calls upon the Alaska State Legislature to call itself into special session in the
70 next 14 days to grant an extension of the current State of Alaska Declaration of the Public
71 Health Disaster Emergency through March 31, 2021 or when the commissioner of health
72 and social services determines there is sufficiently low pandemic activity to justify a
73 reduction in response activities;

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75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star
76 Borough extends the local disaster emergency through March 31, 2021;


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78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly requests the Clerk to
79 distribute a copy of this Resolution to Department of Health and Social Services
80 Commissioner Adam Crum, the Interior Delegation, Representative Bryce Edgmon,
81 Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator Cathy Giessel, President of the Senate,
82 Governor Dunleavy, and the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency
83 Management.

ADOPTED THE 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.

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Mindy O'Neall
Deputy Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


April Trickey, CMC
Borough Clerk

Yeses: Cooper, Lyke, Sanford, Lojewski, Williams, O'Neall
Noes: Tomaszewski, Cash, Wilson