ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2022-90

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL.

WHEREAS, the vision for the Alaska Long Trail is a world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska’s iconic terrain and diverse communities from the Pacific to the Interior, embracing the many ways Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolstering the Alaska economy by attracting visitors from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, with some of the world’s most stunning wild places, Alaska is overdue in creating a connected trail system with goals to improve access, build a stronger, more durable economy, improve quality of life, encourage healthy lifestyles, celebrate heritage and sustain what makes Alaska unique; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Long Trail route from Seward to Fairbanks, where a substantial portion of public land trails already exist, has strong bipartisan support from local, state and national elected officials, businesses and organizations; and

WHEREAS, as Alaska’s largest city and airport hub, Anchorage would connect to the Alaska Long Trail through a braided trail system from the Moose Loop trails in Anchorage north to Palmer and the Mat-Su, along the spectacular Tikahtnu-Cook Inlet and Knik River valleys and south along the breathtaking, awe-inspiring Turnagain Arm to Girdwood; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Long Trail braid from Anchorage to the south needs improved, safe, bicycle and pedestrian access along the Seward Highway from Potter Marsh to Indian, connecting to the Bird to Gird trail and into Girdwood, then connecting south into Chugach National Forest and looping back north over Crow Pass to Eagle River; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Long Trail braid from Anchorage to the north needs improved, safe and attractive multi-use access along the Glenn Highway Trail from Anchorage to the communities of Chugiak, Eagle River, Eklutna and beyond to the Mat-Su, where the trail would continue north to Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the Appalachian, Pacific Crest and other Long Trails are hugely popular attractions and economic drivers; for example, the Appalachian Trail attracts 3 million visitors each year to shop, dine, stay and hike a portion of the 2000+ mile trail; and
WHEREAS, Anchorage residents support trails through annual voter-approved bonds, and the Alaska Long Trail stands to leverage the value of Anchorage’s existing trail system, bringing major recreation and economic benefits to Anchorage and Alaska by attracting a range of travelers from around the world to shop, dine, stay and recreate; and

WHEREAS, now is the time to invest in the future of Anchorage and Alaska’s outdoor recreation, tourism and small business economies by supporting the development of an iconic trail that will stand alongside the other grand trails of the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL AND ENCOURAGES INVESTMENT AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 15th day of March, 2022.

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Chair

ATTEST:

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Jennifer Veneklasen

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Municipal Clerk