

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

5-12-09

Date: _____

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHNSTON AND
ASSEMBLY MEMBER BIRCH

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel

For reading: May 12, 2009

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR NO. 2009-125**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF
FY 2010 COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION TO THE ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
CENTER FOR THE BEARS OF ALASKA INTERPRETATIVE CENTER.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is constructing a Bears of Alaska Interpretive Center, where through interpretive talks, exhibits and films, the center will provide bear education and awareness to all age groups, in a setting unlike any other in the world; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is the only state to have all 3 species of North American bears: Brown bears, Black bears and Polar bears; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is visited by approximately 220,000 visitors each year through cooperative agreements with all Alaska Cruise Lines, the Alaska Tourism Industry, Anchorage School District, Alaska Universities and attendance by the general public; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is the most visited developed attraction in the State of Alaska; and the southern-most building in the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center is an important one-of-a-kind asset to the Municipality, the State of Alaska and our country; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature has appropriated funding toward this worthy project, and wildlife conservation groups, sport hunting groups and native corporation groups are pledging additional financial support; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Improvements Budget is now under review by the Office of the Governor, in preparation for Governor Palin's review and approval, to be finalized in May 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, Girdwood 2020, Safari Club International, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Society, International Association of Bear Research and Management, Anchorage Convention and Visitor Bureau, Alaska Travel Industry Association, Alaska Cruise Association and the general public support the Alaska Legislature's inclusion of this project; and

1 WHEREAS, the local economic benefits of this shovel-ready project include
2 attracting more visitors to Anchorage, for longer stays; providing a local resource for
3 accurate and much needed bear education and awareness, to potentially 300,000
4 visitors annually; stimulation to the local economy during the next 2 ½ years with
5 construction jobs, construction industry services; and long term employment in many
6 capacities after construction is complete.
7

8 NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY HEREBY RESOLVES that
9 the Assembly confirms its support of the Alaska legislative appropriation for the Bears of
10 Alaska Interpretive Center, and commends this project to Governor Palin for funding
11 approval.
12

13 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 12th day of
14 May, 2009.
15

16 Debbi Ossander
17 Chair
18

19 ATTEST:

20 Salma S. Sweet
21
22 Municipal Clerk
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38