

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 2-14-12

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TRAINI AND
GRAY-JACKSON

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office

For reading: February 14, 2012

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2012-50

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE
ALASKA ZOO'S FUNDING REQUEST TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ALASKA
LEGISLATURE FOR \$15 MILLION TO BUILD THE ARCTIC COMPLEX AND \$150,000 TO
LAUNCH THE ALASKA ZOO DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo is a nonprofit corporation located on 25 acres of the Anchorage Hillside and visited by nearly 200,000 people per year; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo has provided a home for orphaned, injured and captive-born animals for more than four decades and promotes the conservation of Arctic, sub-Arctic and like climate species through education, research, wildlife conservation, animal rehabilitation and community enrichment; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo is part of the Species Survival Program for tigers and snow leopards, and is helping with the conservation of polar bears as part of Polar Bears International; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is the only state with lands within the Arctic latitudes and polar bears native to its lands; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Wildlife Fund, the polar bear is important as an indicator of arctic ecosystem health and is studied to gain an understanding of what is happening throughout the Arctic; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new Arctic Complex and Arctic Education Center would:

- Focus on the Arctic environment polar bears live in;
- Provide education on their food sources, habits and challenges;
- Double the size of the current polar bear facility;
- House up to 4 adult polar bears with a maternity den;
- Allow the opportunity to view zoo keepers with the polar bears; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo has submitted two funding requests of \$15 Million and \$150,000 to the Twenty-Seventh Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS, \$15 Million will provide funding to build the Arctic Complex including the Arctic Education Center with the primary focus to expand the polar bear exhibit and to educate the public on Arctic animal species and ecosystem, incorporating traditional Native knowledge, use and folklore; and


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WHEREAS, \$150,000 will provide video-conferencing capabilities from five locations at the zoo with equipment, bandwidth and technical training for the staff to successfully deliver a program of 16 classes, annually introducing audiences to a specific animal or topic via an interactive learning experience and inviting questions and live behavior observation through the Alaska Zoo Distance Learning Program;

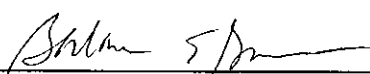
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Assembly supports the Alaska Zoo funding requests to the Twenty-Seventh Alaska Legislature for \$15 Million in state funding of the Alaska Zoo's Arctic Complex and Arctic Education Center Project, and for \$150,000 in state funding for the Alaska Zoo Distance Learning Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage Assembly commends the Alaska Zoo for its celebration and education of the Anchorage and visitor community about our unique and distinctive land, animals and people.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 16th day of February, 2012.


Chair

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk