

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBERS DICK TRAINI AND  
ELVI GRAY-JACKSON

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel's Office

For reading: February 28, 2012

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date:

2/28/12

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2012-56

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

---

6  
7 WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo is a nonprofit corporation located on 25 acres of the  
8 Anchorage Hillside and visited by nearly 200,000 people per year; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo has provided a home for orphaned, injured and captive-  
11 born animals for more than four decades and promotes the conservation of Arctic, sub-Arctic  
12 and like climate species through education, research, wildlife conservation, animal  
13 rehabilitation and community enrichment; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, Alaska is the only state with lands within the Arctic latitudes and polar  
16 bears native to its lands; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the proposed new Arctic Complex and Arctic Education Center would:

- 19  
20
- 21 • Create a premier exhibit on the animals and ecosystems of the Arctic;
  - 22 • Provide education on the food sources, habits and challenges of Arctic animals;
  - 23 • Triple the size of the current polar bear facility;
  - 24 • House up to 4 adult polar bears with a maternity den;
  - 25 • Allow the opportunity to view zoo keepers working with polar bears; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo has submitted two funding requests of \$15 Million and  
28 \$150,000 to the Twenty-Seventh Alaska Legislature; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, \$15 Million will provide funding to build the Arctic Complex including the  
31 Arctic Education Center with the primary focus to expand the polar bear exhibit and to  
32 educate the public on Arctic animal species and ecosystem, incorporating traditional Native  
33 knowledge, use and folklore; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, \$150,000 will provide video-conferencing capabilities from five locations  
36 at the zoo with equipment, bandwidth and technical training for the staff to successfully  
37 deliver a program of 16 classes, annually introducing audiences to a specific animal or topic  
38 via an interactive learning experience and inviting questions and live behavior observation  
39 through the Alaska Zoo Distance Learning Program;

1 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Assembly supports the  
2 Alaska Zoo funding requests to the Twenty-Seventh Alaska Legislature for \$15 Million in  
3 state funding of the Alaska Zoo's Arctic Complex and Arctic Education Center Project, and for  
4 \$150,000 in state funding for the Alaska Zoo Distance Learning Program.  
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage Assembly commends the Alaska  
7 Zoo for its celebration and education of the Anchorage and visitor community about our  
8 unique and distinctive land, animals and people.  
9

10 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 28<sup>th</sup> day of  
11 February, 2012.  
12  
13  
14

15  
16   
17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Chair  
19

20 ATTEST:

21  
22  
23  
24  
25   
26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Municipal Clerk