ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2020-194

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY DECLARING
ANCHORAGE IS ESSENTIAL, AND IN SUPPORT OF FAIR, DIRECT FEDERAL
EMERGENCY SUPPORT TO REOPEN AND REBUILD ALL LOCAL AMERICAN
ECONOMIES.

WHEREAS, America’s cities, towns and villages face unprecedented threats due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic emergency; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are essential to America’s economic recovery and without additional funding support for local governments, municipalities may go from being a critical part of the economic solution to becoming a major obstacle to long-term stabilization and recovery; and

WHEREAS, America’s cities, towns and villages will experience budgetary shortfalls of up $134 billion in fiscal year 2020 alone, and the negative effects of the pandemic emergency on local communities will continue long after this year; and

WHEREAS, nationally, three million critical municipal jobs are at risk, threatening cuts to basic community services, including 9-1-1 response, sanitation, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, communities have taken extraordinary measures to protect health, safety, and the continuation of essential services throughout the emergency; and

WHEREAS, the economic vitality of Anchorage is essential to the State of Alaska, because Anchorage accounts for over 40% of the state’s population and serves as a major economic hub to the rest of the state with a majority of goods and visitors using the Port of Alaska, Anchorage International Airport, Alaska Railroad, and numerous tour operators located here; and

WHEREAS, the significant drop in oil prices and the State’s fiscal uncertainty reinforces the importance of targeted investment and economic development at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the global coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on international and interstate travel, including cancellation of all scheduled cruise ship arrivals in Anchorage and a precipitous drop in the number of visitors arriving by air; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage depends on its thriving tourism industry to support small businesses, which generates thousands of Anchorage jobs, brings in over $300
million annually in direct spending from visitors, and over $35 million annually in local hotel and motor vehicle rental taxes to the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage has proactively implemented a $1 million pilot Small Business Stabilization Grant Fund to help small businesses and nonprofits that are bearing the cost of responding to the public health crisis and those that have not been successful accessing the federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL); and

WHEREAS, Anchorage has also implemented a $1 million Rental Assistance Relief Fund to help residents who have become unemployed or suffered a loss of income due to COVID-19 business closures and caused them to become behind on rent, the arrears which still must be paid to avoid eviction later; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage has and will continue to take important and necessary steps to ensure the safety of its most vulnerable residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Anchorage calls on Congress to allocate fair and direct federal support to all of America’s communities, regardless of population size; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this funding must be flexible and address not only the additional expenses incurred by communities to respond to the pandemic emergency, but also the dramatic budgetary shortfalls resulting from pauses in commerce, tourism, and other economic engines.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 2nd day of June, 2020.

ATTEST:

Chair

Municipal Clerk