

**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY24-07**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION
OF THE CURRENT ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM'S ADVISORY
OPERATIONS BOARD**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry service to Gustavus began in 2011 and has been crucial in providing reliable year-round access to Juneau and Hoonah; and,

WHEREAS, people in Gustavus go to Juneau to stock up on groceries, household supplies and building materials, for medical or dental care, to (except for the three-month period when Alaska Airlines serves Gustavus) catch Alaska Airlines flights, and for other reasons; and,

WHEREAS, the ferry system is less dependent on weather than are airplanes, and it gives people the option to take a vehicle to Juneau and allows them to transport more material home than on an airplane; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska is served best when ferry service is consistent and reliable; and,

WHEREAS, we all agree that there is work to do to ensure the Alaska Marine Highway System continues to provide its essential service, and at the top of the list is replacing the 59-year-old *Tustumena*, hopefully by a new vessel with a diesel-electric propulsion system, while at the same time, there is an organizational challenge that may impact service; and.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System is guided by an advisory operations board that has nine members, five of whom are appointed by the governor, and two each by the Senate president and House speaker; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska's governor has recently proposed an executive order (EO 131) that would allow the governor to appoint the entire board, arguing that a board that is more aligned would be able to more quickly get things done; and,

WHEREAS, the element of diversity in the board under the current system—which may be in the best long-term interest of maintaining the service the Alaska Marine Highway System provides—might disappear, and the board could potentially become entirely politicized; and,

WHEREAS, the current structure is important to the board functioning at a high level and is likely the most effective and efficient structure we can provide; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature can, by majority vote, override the proposed executive order.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Gustavus, Alaska Gustavus urges the Alaska Legislature to override Executive Order 131.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this XXth day of ____ 2024, and effective upon adoption.

Shelley K. Owens, Mayor

Attest: Liesl M. Barker, City Clerk