

**Office of the Mayor
City and Borough of Juneau**

PROCLAMATION OF APOLOGY FROM THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau acknowledges the historical events surrounding the tragic burning of the Douglas Indian Village in 1962, which caused irreparable harm to the Tlingit people, their heritage, and their community; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas Indian Village, home to many Tlingit families, was a vibrant and culturally significant community with deep historical ties to the land, where the Tlingit people lived, practiced their traditions, and thrived for thousands of years; and

WHEREAS, the Tlingit people have made and continue to make substantial contributions to the cultural, social, and economic fabric of Juneau. Their rich heritage, language, and customs are integral to the identity and history of this place, and they have been exemplary stewards of the land and its resources since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the decision to burn the Douglas Indian Village in 1962 involved multiple parties, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the State of Alaska, the City and Borough of Juneau predecessor bodies consisting of the City of Douglas, the City of Juneau, and the Greater Juneau Borough, as well as local businesses. The burning was carried out without proper consultation with the Tlingit residents or consideration for their rights and interests. The coordinated action led to the loss of homes, cultural sites, and the displacement of the Tlingit community, exacerbating historical injustices faced by Indigenous peoples in the region; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau recognizes that this event is a painful chapter in our shared history, and it deeply regrets the role it played in this tragic event. The city acknowledges the lasting impact this has had on the Tlingit people and the ongoing challenges they face as a result of this action; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the City and Borough of Juneau to acknowledge past wrongs, foster reconciliation, and commit to a future of mutual respect and partnership with the Indigenous peoples of this region; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau commits to continue to work collaboratively with the Tlingit people to preserve and promote their cultural heritage, support the revitalization of their language and traditions, and ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City and Borough of Juneau hereby issues this formal apology to the Tlingit people for its role in the burning of the Douglas Indian Village in 1962. We acknowledge the pain and suffering this event has caused and commit to a path of healing and reconciliation. We pledge to work alongside the Tlingit people to build a more inclusive and respectful community, where the rights, culture, and contributions of Indigenous peoples are recognized, honored, and celebrated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this proclamation is signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau on this 21st day of October 2024, reaffirming our commitment to justice, equity, and the shared stewardship of this land.



Beth A. Weldon, Mayor