

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 04/07/2025
Drafted by: Law Department

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3099

**A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Extending the Local
Emergency Declaration in Response to the August 2024 Glacier
Outburst Flood and a Request for State and Federal Assistance.**

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Juneau (the “City and Borough”) is a political subdivision of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a side basin (Suicide Basin or K’óox Kaadí Basin) of the Mendenhall Glacier above Juneau, Alaska, has released outburst floods (also known as jökulhlaups) since 2011, with record flood events in August 2023 and August 2024; and

WHEREAS, the emergency is ongoing, as the basin continues to refill, placing the community, public infrastructure, and property at risk due to an anticipated 2025 release; and

WHEREAS, the August 2024 glacier outburst flood caused unprecedented damage to public infrastructure and private property, triggering the assistance of State agencies and the Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Alaska issued a State disaster declaration on August 12, 2024, and the City and Borough received a federal disaster declaration on October 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the following conditions exist: the extent of the August 2024 flooding is unprecedented; hundreds of homes were severely impacted by flooding, including homes outside anticipated flood areas; hundreds of vehicles were flooded; there were countless hazardous material spills causing portions of the Mendenhall River and floodwaters to smell like petroleum; 43 people sought refuge in an emergency shelter and countless others evacuated to other locations; public utilities and infrastructure were severely damaged; homeowners are still rebuilding, and emergency response costs are significant; and

39 WHEREAS, benefited property owners and the Assembly have approved the creation
40 of a local improvement district to fund the placement of HESCO barriers to attempt to
41 protect life and property going forward; and
42

43 WHEREAS, the City and Borough Manager is the chief administrative officer who
44 reports to the Assembly (CBJ Charter 4.1 & 4.5); and
45

46 WHEREAS, the governing body of the City and Borough is the Assembly, which has
47 legislative and policy-making powers (CBJ Charter 3.1), and the City and Borough Mayor is
48 the presiding officer with special powers in emergencies; and
49

50 WHEREAS, pursuant to CBJC 03.25.040(a) and A.S. 26.23.140, the declaration of the
51 existence of a local emergency may be made by the City and Borough Manager and
52 confirmed by the City and Borough Assembly; and
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54 WHEREAS, the Assembly authorizes the Manager to implement orders necessary to
55 protect the health and safety of the residents of the City and Borough; and
56

57 WHEREAS, the Assembly further authorizes the Manager to allow emergency
58 permitting and waivers under Title 19, Title 49, and Title 75 as it is reasonable and
59 necessary to protect life and property, upon balancing the public health, safety, and welfare;
60 and
61

62 WHEREAS, the Assembly requests the Governor of the State of Alaska direct State
63 officials to allow emergency permitting and waivers to State laws for people, businesses, and
64 residences who need to take reasonable actions to protect life and property.
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66 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:
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68 **Section 1. Local Emergency Declaration.** The City and Borough Manager and
69 Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau declare a disaster emergency to exist within
70 the City and Borough of Juneau per CBJ Charter 3.12(c), CBJC 03.25.040(a), and A.S.
71 26.23.140. A copy of this Resolution shall be filed promptly with the Alaska Division of
72 Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
73

74 **Section 2. Reasonable and Necessary Emergency Orders.** Consistent with
75 CBJC 03.25.040(6), CBJC 03.25.090, and A.S. 29.23.190, the Assembly authorizes the
76 Manager to implement any reasonable emergency orders necessary to protect the health,
77 safety, or welfare of the residents of the City and Borough of Juneau including emergency

78 permitting and waivers under Title 19, Title 49, and Title 75 as it is reasonable and
79 necessary to protect life and property, upon balancing the public health, safety, and welfare.
80

81 **Section 3. Request for State and Federal Assistance.** The City and Borough
82 of Juneau requests that the Governor of the State of Alaska provide continued State public
83 assistance and individual assistance as may be available, assistance with emergency
84 permitting within and near Mendenhall River, and to request additional assistance from the
85 federal government.
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87 **Section 4. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after
88 its adoption. Because of the ongoing nature of the emergency, this declaration of local
89 emergency shall remain in effect for 180 days.
90

91 Adopted this _____ day of April, 2025.
92

93 _____
94 Beth A. Weldon, Mayor
95

96 _____
97 Katie Koester, City Manager
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100
101 Attest:
102

103 _____
104 Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk