

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 11/21/2022
Drafted by: B. Brown

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3003

A Resolution of the City and Borough of Juneau Supporting Full Funding in the Amount of Eight Million, Two Hundred Thirty-six Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$8,236,815) for the State of Alaska Harbor Facility Grant Program in the Fiscal Year 2024 State Capital Budget.

WHEREAS, the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State in the early years of Statehood in the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's harbor facilities represent critical transportation links, are vital public infrastructure, and are essential hubs for waterfront commerce which supports beneficial economic activity in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the harbor facilities in Alaskan coastal communities are ports of refuge for ocean-going vessels, and serve as the gateway for supplies, trade in goods and services, and connections to national and global markets for Alaskan exports and imports; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the past 30 years, the State of Alaska has transferred ownership of formerly State-owned harbors to local governments, allowing local control, but also significantly increasing the operational and maintenance costs which must be borne by local governments; and

WHEREAS, the majority of former State harbor facilities transferred to municipalities were at the time of transfer at or near the end of their serviceable lives; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's municipalities have strived to allocate the resources necessary to maintain and, when possible, improve harbor facilities transferred to them by the State of Alaska, but have faced increasing challenges in managing the significant financial burdens attendant on the harbor facilities formerly owned and maintained by the State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature recognized the magnitude of the problem with the fiscal burden placed on local governments by the transfer of State harbor facilities to local governments, and created the Harbor Facility Grant Program in 2006 with the passage of Senate Bill 291; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities applies statutory criteria to projects for which local governments apply for funds under the Harbor

44 Facility Grant Program, including municipal capacity to operate and maintain harbor
45 facilities in the future without State aid, public safety and emergency factors, prior
46 municipal expenditure on harbor facility maintenance, and options to reduce or eliminate
47 the need for a proposed project; and
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49 WHEREAS, municipal governments applying for harbor facility grants must provide 50%
50 of the total project cost, which effectively and efficiently leverages local funds with the
51 prudent investment of State funds; and
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53 WHEREAS, during the last 15 years the Harbor Facility Grant Program has only been
54 fully funded twice; and
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56 WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League has conducted research about Alaska's ports and
57 harbors which indicates the backlog of projects needed to repair and replace former State-
58 owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and
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60 WHEREAS, the municipalities of Sitka, Whittier, and Wrangell/Meyers Chuck have
61 successfully submitted applications to the Department of Transportation and Public
62 Facilities which require matching funds, and these municipalities have committed to
63 contribute \$8,236,815 in local match funding in Fiscal Year 2024 towards harbor projects of
64 significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program; and
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66 WHEREAS, Alaska is a maritime state and its harbors are foundational to the Alaskan
67 way of life and the economy, it is in all Alaskans' best interest to maintain this critical
68 infrastructure by using State, Local and Federal funds to recapitalize the crucial harbor
69 moorage infrastructure statewide.
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71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF
72 JUNEAU, ALASKA:
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74 **Section 1. Funding.** The Governor of Alaska and the Alaska Legislature are
75 respectfully urged to fund the State of Alaska Harbor Facility Grant Program in the Fiscal
76 Year 2024 State Capital Budget in the amount of \$8,236,815 to enhance and elevate the
77 safety, well-being, and economic prosperity of Alaskan coastal communities.
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79 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This resolution shall be effective immediately after its
80 adoption.
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82 Adopted this _____ day of November, 2022.
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Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

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86 Attest:

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89 _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk