

Presented By:
City Manager

Action Taken:
Yes____
No____
Abstain____

CITY OF NOME, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. R-23-01-11

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA HARBOR
FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2024 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, Alaska's harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

Whereas, these harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going commerce vessels, pleasure craft and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal Alaskan communities; and

Whereas, many municipalities own and operate these harbor facilities and are therefore responsible for keeping up with deferred maintenance; and

Whereas, consequently, when local municipalities formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they were frequently faced with high costs for repairs and improvements that their local municipal governments could not afford; and

Whereas, in response to this financial burden, the Governor and the Alaska Legislature passed legislation, to create the Harbor Facility Grant program, AS 29.60.800; and

Whereas, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' administrative process works to review, score and rank applicants to the Harbor Facility Grant Program, since state funds may be limited; and

Whereas, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and

Whereas, the City of Nome is nearing completion of a Harbor Repairs & Upgrades Project made possible by a \$3M FY2013 Harbor Facility Grant with 50% of that matched by the City; and

Whereas, the municipalities of Sitka, Whittier, and Wrangell/Meyers Chuck have committed to contribute a collective \$8,236,815 in local match funding for FY2024 towards harbor

projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facility Grant Program;
and

Whereas, completion of these harbor facility projects is all dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

Whereas, during the last fifteen years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has been fully funded only twice; and

Whereas, survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports and harbors found that from the respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and

Whereas, given that Alaska is a maritime state and that our harbors are foundational to both our way of life and the economy of this great State it is in the public's best interest to maintain this critical infrastructure by using State, Local and Federal funds to recapitalize the crucial harbor moorage infrastructure statewide.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Nome Common Council supports and urges full funding by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2024 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

APPROVED and **SIGNED** the 23rd day of January, 2023.

JOHN K. HANDELAND, Mayor

ATTEST:

BRYANT HAMMOND, Clerk