

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION #2022-12**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$27,000 FROM THE  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN SPECIAL REVENUE FUND 287 FOR A DIGITAL  
FINGERPRINT SCANNING SYSTEM**

**WHEREAS**, on April 5, 2022, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) awarded the Petersburg Borough \$1,430,892 in federal grant funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA); and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution #2022-02 adopted by the Borough Assembly in March of 2022 determined that 58% of these funds shall be dispersed to the Petersburg Medical Center, 10% to Borough Enterprise funds, and 32% to provide general government services; and

**WHEREAS**, expenses related to this ARPA Grant were approved in the Adopted FY2023 Borough Budget therefore a supplemental budget ordinance is not needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Petersburg Police Department currently performs manual ink fingerprinting for prospective employees of various Petersburg service businesses such as healthcare and childcare workers, for local residents who are applying for a certification of some sort (for example, adoption or foster care) and for prisoners; and

**WHEREAS**, the fingerprint cards (usually 3 separate cards per individual, meaning each finger is printed three separate times) must be snail mailed to the appropriate agencies that utilize them to background check the people providing the prints and can at times be deemed by the receiving agencies as invalid due to smudging or other reasons having to do with the manual fingerprint process. Invalid prints cause the individual to repeat the manual fingerprinting process and spend additional time waiting to see if the prints are valid and usable by the receiving agency; and

**WHEREAS**, if the Petersburg Police Department has access to a digital fingerprint scanning system, no ink is used, and prints of each finger and the full hand are scanned only once. An immediate confirmation of a valid or invalid scan will be provided by the scanner which will eliminate wait time and repeat fingerprinting; and

**WHEREAS**, at times individuals in Police custody refuse to divulge their identity. Currently, the Police Department has to manually fingerprint the individual and snail mail the fingerprint cards to a law enforcement agency that can run the prints through their system before learning the individual's identity. This process is slow and cumbersome. With a digital fingerprint scanner, the identity of the individual scanned will be relayed within an hour or two if they have previously been fingerprinted; and

**WHEREAS**, State law enforcement agencies are equipped to accept digital fingerprints electronically, eliminating the need to print fingerprint cards and snail mail them, which will reduce the workload of Police Department Dispatchers. For those agencies that require fingerprint cards, the Police Department will be able to print as many cards as are needed for the individual to remit.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Petersburg Borough Assembly recognizes the benefit to the community in terms of labor and time saved and in support of our community hereby approves the expenditure of up to \$27,000 from the ARPA Special Revenue Fund 287 to purchase a digital fingerprinting system.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022.

**Attest:**

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**Mark Jensen, Mayor**

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**Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk**