

**Petersburg Borough, Alaska
RESOLUTION #2021-17**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE US POSTAL SERVICE PROVIDE HOME MAIL
DELIVERY IN PETERSBURG, ALASKA**

WHEREAS, the US Postal Service in Petersburg provides post office boxes for Borough residents with no home mail delivery option; and

WHEREAS, with a population of approximately 3,200, Petersburg is the largest community in Southeast Alaska without the option of home mail delivery; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Post Office has suffered from being short staffed for the last year and has severely reduced open hours for the counter for mailing and picking up packages; and

WHEREAS, the reduced open counter schedule is sporadic and changes from day to day, sometimes being from 1:00 to 5:00 and sometimes being less, making it hard for Petersburg residents to know what time to go to the Post Office on any given day; and

WHEREAS, the reduced hours are causing long lines to form to use the counter services and those waiting in the lines do so for anywhere from a few minutes to over an hour before their post office business is completed; and

WHEREAS, these long lines and waiting times are not conducive to stopping the spread of COVID as the Petersburg Post Office does not enforce the use of face coverings; and

WHEREAS, the extended wait time in these lines is extremely problematic to our local businesses, many of whom are short staffed due to COVID related issues, who need to receive their business inventory as well as mail outbound locally purchased goods; and

WHEREAS, many Petersburg residents who have daytime jobs have not been able to use the Post Office counter services on their lunch hour or after work; and

WHEREAS, many essential goods, such as medications, are delivered to Petersburg residents' post office boxes by the US Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, Petersburg is located on an island in Southeast Alaska so residents cannot drive to a Post Office in another community to use counter services; and

WHEREAS, the US Postal Service routinely hires subcontractors to perform rural route mail delivery in other communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Petersburg Borough Assembly hereby requests the US Postal Service provide the option of home mail delivery to Petersburg Borough residents to relieve the frustration of residents and businesses dealing with the reduced and ever changing counter schedule and the possibility of COVID spread in the community.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on December 20, 2021.

Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk