

**CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2026-017**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA,
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF WHITTIER'S PURSUIT OF
DESIGNATION AS A WORLD WAR II HERITAGE CITY**

WHEREAS, the City of Whittier was established during World War II as a strategic military port and rail terminal constructed by the United States Army to support operations in the Pacific Theater; and

WHEREAS, Whittier remains one of the few communities in Alaska built specifically by the military for military operations, and its infrastructure, transportation systems, and waterfront facilities continue to reflect that legacy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whittier retains significant historic resources associated with World War II, including military-era structures, transportation corridors, and port facilities that played a direct role in national defense; and

WHEREAS, designation as a World War II Heritage City is intended to recognize communities that made significant contributions to the United States home front during World War II and to promote education, preservation, and public awareness of that history; and

WHEREAS, designation as a World War II Heritage City would provide national recognition of Whittier's historical significance and strengthen the City's position when pursuing federal and state funding opportunities for infrastructure, environmental remediation, tourism management, and historical interpretation projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Whittier is actively engaged in managing and remediating historic and legacy sites, including the Buckner Building and other military-era facilities, and recognition of the community's historical importance supports continued investment in responsible redevelopment and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, designation as a World War II Heritage City would support the City's efforts to manage increasing visitation and tourism activity by reinforcing Whittier's identity as a destination of national historical importance, encouraging responsible tourism and economic activity that benefits local businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, this designation represents a meaningful opportunity for the City of Whittier to honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women who built and served in this community during World War II, while strengthening civic pride and preserving the community's unique history for future generations; and

CITY OF WHITTIER, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2026-017

Page 2 of 2

47 **WHEREAS**, designation as a World War II Heritage City is honorary in nature and does
48 not impose federal control over local land use decisions, property management, demolition,
49 redevelopment, or infrastructure planning; and

50
51 **WHEREAS**, pursuing this designation aligns with the City of Whittier’s long-standing
52 commitment to responsible governance, historical stewardship, and economic sustainability, and
53 represents a valuable opportunity to elevate the community’s national recognition.

54
55 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES:**

56
57 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby expresses its support for the City of Whittier’s pursuit
58 of designation as a World War II Heritage City and recognizes the potential benefits such
59 designation may bring to the community.

60
61 **Section 2.** It is the intent of the City Council that this resolution serve as a formal statement
62 of support for the recognition of Whittier’s historical significance and the preservation and
63 interpretation of its military heritage.

64
65 **Section 3.** Adoption of this resolution does not commit the City to any financial obligation,
66 regulatory requirement, or operational change without further action by the City Council.

67
68 **Section 4.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

69
70
71 **PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Whittier City Council
72 on this 21st day of April , 2026.

73
74
75
76

Victor Shen
Mayor

77
78
79 AYES:
80 NOES:
81 ABSENT:
82 ABSTAIN:

83
84
85 **ATTEST:**

86
87
88
89

Shelby Carlson
90 Acting City Clerk

(City Seal)