

Presented by: Assembly
Presented: 04/06/2020
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Emergency Serial No. 2889

An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating \$200,000 to the Manager for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program; Funding Provided by the Affordable Housing Fund.

- A. WHEREAS, consistent with Charter 9.10(b), upon declaration by the Assembly that a public emergency exists and describing the emergency in clear and specific terms, the Assembly by resolution may make emergency appropriation upon approval by all Assemblymembers present or by seven of its membership, whichever is the lesser number; and
- B. WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is easily transmittable person to person; and
- C. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the virus a pandemic; and
- D. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of the virus in Alaska; and
- E. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and
- F. WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Assembly declared a local emergency in response to COVID-19; and
- G. WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the City and Borough of Juneau (“CBJ”) received its first positive case of COVID-19; and
- H. WHEREAS, there are approximately 5,000 rental units in the CBJ; and
- I. WHEREAS, workforce housing in the CBJ typically equates to less than 120 percent of the area median income (AMI); and
- J. WHEREAS, nearly half of the renters make less than 80 percent of the AMI and approximately 70 percent of those renters have unaffordable rental costs; and
- K. WHEREAS, renters need immediate support as many worked in businesses that have closed or reduced hours because of COVID-19 and social distancing requirements; and

- L. WHEREAS, federal and state resources may be available too late or insufficient to be of assistance to renters or landlords who need immediate assistance; and
- M. WHEREAS, providing rental assistance now prevents the need for additional costs and services in the future, which is in the public's interest; and
- N. WHEREAS, failing to provide rental assistance would result in further adverse impacts to Juneau's economy and social service network; and
- O. WHEREAS, the Alaska Housing Development Corporation, a nonprofit corporation and also known as Gruening Park in partnership with Gastineau Human Services, has an existing rental assistance program that has experienced increased demand due to the COVID-19 public emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Emergency Appropriation. There is appropriated to the Manager the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program, to be granted to the Juneau Community Foundation only for disbursement to the Alaska Housing Development Corporation.

Section 2. Source of Funds:

Affordable Housing Fund	\$ 200,000.00
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Section 3. Emergency Rental Assistance Program Purpose and Terms. The program is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) Rental assistance is for people who have lost employment as a result of COVID-19 or people who cannot earn wages as the result of a loss of childcare due to COVID-19.
- (b) Rental assistance is prioritized for people who earn less than 120 percent of the area median income as calculated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (c) Applicants must provide sufficient proof of lay-off and/or eviction notices, lack of day care, 30-day bank statements, and leasing information.
- (d) The Manager is directed to report back to the Assembly on the number of applicants and disbursement of funds.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk