PROCLAMATION

A DECLARATION OF A DISASTER EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF NORTH POLE DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus, a new strain of the coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmittable person to person; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization designated the outbreak of COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19 as a significant public health disaster emergency in response to the COVID-19 anticipated outbreak in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, On March 12, 2020, the State of Alaska received the first confirmation of the presence of COVID-19 in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020 President Trump declared a National Emergency in response to the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, On March 17th, 2020 Alaska Governor Dunleavy issued a COVID-19 Health Mandate closing all bars, breweries, restaurants, food and beverage kiosks or trucks, other establishments serving food or beverages within the State of Alaska to public dine-in service and closing all exertainment facilities until rescinded by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, On March 20th, 2020 Governor Dunleavy issued a COVID-19 Health Mandate continuing the closure of all public and private schools through May 1st, 2020 and is now extended to May 21, the end of the 2020 school year; and

WHEREAS, On March 20th, 2020 Governor Dunleavy Issued a COVID-19 mandate closing all businesses, congregations, or gatherings in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Ketchikan Gateway Borough where individuals are within six feet of each other. This includes: Hair Salons, Day Spas, Esthetics, Barber Shops, Tattoo shops, Body piercing locations, Massage therapy locations and Tanning facilities; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020 the Fairbanks North Star Borough activated the Borough Emergency Operations Center and is assisting the state and local health partners as requested; and

WHEREAS, as of March 29th, 2020 Retail business was down 48% and Grocery with Pharmacy was down 34% boroughwide; and

WHEREAS, ON April 9th, 2020 President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Alaska and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as of April 10th, 2020 The Fairbanks North Star Borough has 76 cases of COVID-19 with 15 of those being in the North Pole community and is deemed the "Hot Spot" of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole has a population of 2,100, there is an estimated one quarter of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (27,000 citizens) living in Zip Code 99705 just outside our city limits (4.2-square mile radius) which the North Pole Police Department patrols and enforces the laws, and the North Pole Fire Department with its ambulance EMS services responds to 1,400 calls annually of mutual assistance. The North Pole Water and Sewer utility is critical to public health and essential services within and outside of the city limits to approximately 1,000 residential and commercial customers; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole has 43 full time employees, and as of today there have been 9 employees that have used the FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT for Emergency Paid Sick Leave that exceeds 300 hours and at a cost that is now greater than $15,000; and,

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole relies heavily on its sales tax revenue that is two thirds of the revenue budgeted for 2020 ($4 million of $6.4 million), and this is certain to greatly impact a disastrous negative outcome to the future economy of the City, mainly due to mandates from the State of Alaska in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole has a major hotel and bed and breakfasts establishments that depend on tourism, which their business is now at a complete standstill, and for which the city realizes approximately $100,000 annually in bed tax receipts, which in turn are distributed to community organizations to conduct events that promote the City throughout the entire year; and

WHEREAS, to contain any more harm that may be caused by the virus, State and Federal assistance may be needed to supplement local efforts to respond to this public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, state assistance in response to the virus, including assistance for fire protection, emergency medical services, and the provision of funds, services, functions, supplies, or materials determined by the Mayor, in consultation with local emergency agencies and partners, may be necessary to meet the public safety and welfare needs arising incidental to COVID-19 and to recover for the damages caused; and

WHEREAS, we have not hit the apex of this virus and we do not know where we stand as we do not have enough testing for the entire Fairbanks North Star borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, as mayor of the City of North Pole, I hereby declare that a Disaster Emergency exists within the City of North Pole.

FUTHERMORE, I request that the State of Alaska and the United States government provide State and Federal Public Assistance and individual Assistance to the City of North Pole in its response and recovery from this event.

PROCLAIMED AND DECLARED this 10h day of April 2020

THE CITY OF NORTH POLE INCORPORATED ON JANUARY 16, 1953 SEAL ALASKA

Michael W. Welch, Mayor, City of North Pole, Alaska

Kim Kiehl
City Clerk

Disaster Proclamation
April 10, 2020