

Submitted by: Assembly Members Rivera and  
Quinn-Davidson  
Prepared by: Assembly Counsel  
For reading: March 20, 2020

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
**AR No. 2020-88(S)**

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY CALLING FOR A**  
2 **COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO MITIGATE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC**  
3 **IMPACTS OF COVID-19.**  
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6 **WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) has declared the COVID-19  
7 outbreak a global pandemic, defined as the worldwide spread of a new virus for  
8 which the general public does not have immunity; and  
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10 **WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, Governor Dunleavy declared a public health  
11 emergency for the State of Alaska in anticipation of a COVID-19 outbreak; and  
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13 **WHEREAS**, on March 12, 2020, Mayor Berkowitz declared a state of emergency in  
14 the Municipality of Anchorage to protect and preserve public health and safety, and  
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16 **WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the Mayor signed Emergency Order EO-01, which  
17 impacted restaurants, bars, breweries, and entertainment facilities including  
18 theaters, gyms, and bingo halls; and  
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20 **WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued another public health measure  
21 that will prohibit dine-in service for all restaurants, bars, breweries, cafes, and similar  
22 establishments; and  
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24 **WHEREAS**, those citizens of the Municipality that live paycheck to paycheck are  
25 most at risk of facing the economic effects of an outbreak of COVID-19; and  
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27 **WHEREAS**, small businesses are also likely to face economic effects based on the  
28 public health measures taken to avoid an outbreak of COVID-19; and  
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30 **WHEREAS**, while the Anchorage School District is closed many families must make  
31 alternate arrangements for their childcare needs; and  
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33 **WHEREAS**, the Alaska Court System, the Municipal Administration, and  
34 businesses and other organizations across the state are already taking preemptive  
35 measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its associated societal and  
36 economic impacts; and  
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38 **WHEREAS**, utility companies, including GCI, ML&P, AWWU, Chugach Electric  
39 Association, and Alaska Communications have already taken actions to support  
40 those who are likely to experience the most strain on their ability to pay bills; and  
41 other utility entities are requested to follow their lead, especially in their commitment  
42 to waive late fees; and  
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1 **WHEREAS**, while rent and mortgages payments must continue to be made on  
2 schedule, there are opportunities for landlords to lessen the strain on renters; and  
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4 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly does not have direct regulatory control over many of the  
5 actions herein, but nonetheless submits these requests; now, therefore, be it  
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7 **RESOLVED THAT THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY CALLS UPON**  
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- 9 1. The Municipal Administration to  
10 a. Understand that the federal government issued a 60-day  
11 moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for homeowners with  
12 FHA-insured mortgages, and explore and support temporary  
13 moratoriums or mitigation actions for people who are unable to  
14 pay real property tax penalties or faced with evictions or  
15 foreclosures due to a short-term inability to pay, except for  
16 those who would be evicted for safety, property damage, or  
17 gross nuisance purposes.  
18 b. Ensure that the Anchorage School District is providing essential  
19 services to students during the closures, such as remote  
20 learning access, technical equipment, and food for food-  
21 insecure households.  
22 c. Assist local landlords in developing a payment plan template  
23 for tenants who need assistance.  
24 d. Explore ways to assist the restaurant, brewery, bar, and food  
25 and beverage service industry.  
26 e. Consider property tax relief opportunities for those impacted by  
27 this public health emergency.  
28 f. Request that industries which require close physical contact  
29 shut down operations during this public health emergency.  
30 g. Consider and mitigate impacts to those experiencing  
31 homelessness, including access to testing, treatment, and  
32 respite care.  
33 h. Work diligently with businesses, the Alaska State Legislature,  
34 Governor Dunleavy, the Anchorage School District, and the  
35 Alaska Congressional Delegation on the other items listed in  
36 this resolution, as well as any additional ideas to mitigate the  
37 social and economic impacts of this public health emergency.  
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39 2. The Alaska State Legislature and Governor to  
40 a. Pass unemployment benefits legislation that would include  
41 expediting the application process.  
42 b. Expand benefits time limitations, and eligibility for those who  
43 have been furloughed or who have significantly reduced work  
44 hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and increasing the  
45 maximum benefit allowed, as well as any other provisions that  
46 would benefit those affected by this public health emergency.  
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48 c. Seek federal support for assistance for small and micro  
49 businesses, including sole proprietors, such as expansion of

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- the Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) fund or other economic relief programs.
  - d. Expand the definition of “employer” in the Alaska Family Leave Act so that more employees are eligible for benefits.
  - e. Generally, consider and attempt to mitigate impacts to those residents who are particularly vulnerable, such as the elderly, disabled, children, and economically disadvantaged.
  - f. Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to increase senior and general relief benefits.
  - g. Direct that manufacturers and wholesalers reserve an appropriate percentage of their protective gear and health care materials for emergency health care providers.
  - h. Expedite the Alaska Background Check Program to enable a quick turnaround in workforce capacity as illnesses rise among employees.
  - i. Find innovative ways to deliver day habilitation and other similar services.
  - j. Put a freeze on student loan payments, interest, and penalties.
  - k. Request that non-essential industries which require close physical contact shut down operations during this public health emergency.
  - l. Restrict all non-essential air travel to and from Alaska and within the State.
  - m. Require all state employees who are able to work from home.
  - n. Evaluate how the federal government can assist nonprofits in providing essential services to communities impacted by this public health emergency, including organizations like daycare facilities that provide business-like functions under a nonprofit structure.
3. The Alaska Congressional Delegation to
- a. Advocate to suspend the work requirement for SNAP benefits for those who have lost employment due to this public health emergency.
  - b. Authorize assistance to small and micro businesses, including sole proprietors, in the form of low-interest loans, targeted tax relief, expansion of the EIDL fund, or other programs.
  - c. Authorize economic disaster relief funds.
  - d. Ensure that authorized state and federal unemployment benefits are sufficient and assist all in need.
  - e. Explore a deferral program for mortgage payments that lasts until landlords are able to collect missed rent payments.
  - f. Evaluate how the federal government can assist nonprofits in providing essential services to communities impacted by this public health emergency, including organizations like daycare facilities that provide business-like functions under a nonprofit structure.
  - g. Put a freeze on student loan payments, interest, and penalties.

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- h. Relax restrictions on WIC, including allowing a broader group of foods to be purchased during food shortages and allowing families with kids older than five to participate in the program.
  - i. Relax SNAP (food stamp) requirements and benefit limits to better provide for those in need.
  - j. Direct that manufacturers and wholesalers reserve an appropriate percentage of their protective gear and health care materials for health care providers.
  - k. Consider implementing and funding paid leave programs that provide for all employees.
4. Landlords and property owners to
- a. Consider suspending any increases in rent for tenants financially impacted by the effects of this public health emergency.
  - b. Consider creating a special dispensation policy for those who cannot pay rent.
  - c. Incorporate CDC-suggested sanitizing processes in common areas.
5. Utility companies, including internet to
- a. Consider adopting a policy of leniency for those who cannot afford to pay their bills during this public health emergency, and to avoid shutting off service.
  - b. Eliminate late fees for those who are unable to pay all or part of their bill during this public health emergency.
6. Financial lending institutions to
- a. Put a moratorium on mortgage payments and late fees for those impacted by this public health emergency.
  - b. Explore a deferral program for mortgage payments that lasts until landlords are able to collect missed rent payments.
7. All public and private employers within the Municipality to
- a. Require all employees who are able to work from home.
  - b. Have paid time off and family leave policies that allow staff reasonable opportunity to stay home due to personal or family illness.
8. Businesses to
- a. Endeavor to keep enough WIC-eligible foods available to meet the needs of the community.
  - b. Refrain from raising prices on essential products should a shortage of goods result from this public health emergency.

This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

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PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

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Municipal Clerk