

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
RESOLUTION #2020-17**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$65,000 FROM THE CARES
ACT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
FAMILIES NEEDING NEW OR ADDITIONAL CHILDCARE DUE TO THE COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus a pandemic and Governor Mike Dunleavy declared a public health disaster emergency in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Borough Assembly ratified a Local Emergency Declaration for the Petersburg Borough in regard to the ongoing pandemic; and

WHEREAS, State of Alaska mandated closure of the Petersburg School District, Tlingit-Haida's Council closure of the Head Start preschool program and the Petersburg Childrens' Center (PCC) Board of Directors closure of the PCC preschool program earlier this year forced families to choose between work and home, and resulted in children left home alone or taking care of younger siblings; and

WHEREAS, ongoing public health mandates, alerts and guidance issued by the State of Alaska and the Smart Start Plan implemented by the Petersburg School District and Tlingit-Haida's Head Start preschool's opening plan are critical in mitigating the rate of spread of the COVID-19 virus, however these efforts are placing a sudden burden on families to find immediate, quality childcare; and

WHEREAS, securing quality childcare is critical and necessary for the safety and wellbeing of children and families as well as for maintaining a workforce for our local economy, acquiring these services places a significant and unforeseen financial burden on families; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the United States Congress adopted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") which, among other things, amended Section 601(a) of the Social Security Act and established the Coronavirus Relief Fund, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and CARES Act Small Business and Community Support Fund Grant Agreement – Page 2 Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") (PL 116-136), established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and appropriated \$150 billion to the Fund be used to make payments for specified uses to States and certain local governments; and

WHEREAS, guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury Department to date indicates that necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency may include providing assistance to individuals and families for unforeseen financial costs for emergency needs; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly determines that the appropriation of funds provided for herein are necessary and will serve a public purpose and the general welfare of the community of Petersburg by relieving economic distress caused by the COVID-19 public health crisis; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Petersburg Borough Assembly hereby approves the expenditure of \$65,000 from the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund to Petersburg Mental Health Services to provide emergency financial assistance for childcare to Petersburg families harmed by the continuing Covid-19 public health emergency.

Passed and approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska this 8th day of September 2020.

Attest:

Mark Jensen, Mayor

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk