



DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is easily transmittable person to person; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization ("WHO") declared the virus a pandemic; on the same day, Alaska Governor Dunleavy issued a declaration of public health disaster emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of COVID-19 in Alaska; and on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, a positive case of COVID-19 has been identified within the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Dunleavy closed all schools in Alaska for two weeks; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, Manager Giesbrecht closed the Petersburg Public Library and the Petersburg Parks and Recreation facilities in an effort to protect the safety and health of Borough employees and the public; and

WHEREAS, Borough Administration is requesting the public refrain from visiting any Borough offices for non-emergency purposes and to instead use other forms of communication (telephone, email, on-line payment or use of drop box outside main doors to the Municipal Building, etc.) until further notice; and

WHEREAS, the declared pandemic has the potential to negatively affect the Petersburg Borough economy through decreased markets for the commercial fishing fleet catch and decreased opportunity for visitor/tourist traffic; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of disaster emergency will alert the public to the seriousness of the risk and provide direction to residents of sources of information and other available public health resources, and allow the Petersburg Borough to work in cooperation with other local, state and federal agencies through the Petersburg Emergency Operations Center, to implement appropriate actions and responses to address the COVID-19 outbreak.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with the recommendations of the Petersburg Emergency Operations Center, I now declare a local disaster emergency in the Petersburg Borough based on the risk to the public posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the substantial economic impacts to the Petersburg Borough. In accordance with AS 26.23.140, the intent of this declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local or interjurisdictional disaster or emergency plans, and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under those plans, including available federal and state emergency funding. Further, I hereby request that the Assembly continue this declaration until the virus is no longer declared a federal or state emergency.

Signed this 16th day of March, 2020.

Stephen Giesbrecht, Borough Manager

ATTEST:

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk

Borough Contact Numbers:

Police Department – 772-3838; Fire Department – 772-3355; Administration/Community Development/Finance Departments – 772-4425; Power & Light Department – 772-4203; Public Works/Sanitation/Water & Wastewater Departments – 772-4430; Harbor Department – 772-4688; Mountain View Manor Assisted Living – 772-2445; Public Library – 772-3349; Parks & Recreation Department – 772-3304

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