



City of Homer

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Homer City Council

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Memorandum 20-094

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

FROM: Councilmembers Aderhold and Venuti

DATE: June 25, 2020

SUBJECT: Letter to Governor Dunleavy requesting consultation in developing a Homer-specific COVID-19 mitigation plan

The Mayor and City Councilmembers have received numerous requests from constituents to take action on the recent outbreak of COVID-19 cases in and near Homer. At recent city council meetings, the mayor and city council members have discussed the issue and asked for support from State of Alaska Chief Medical Officer Anne Zink in measures the city can implement as a first class city that does not have health powers. During our June 22 meeting we discussed formally requesting support from Governor Dunleavy on implementing health measures.

Following our June 22 meeting, Councilmembers Aderhold and Venuti worked with city staff to evaluate the best method to move forward with this request and determined that a request that the state consult with city EOC staff and partners (SPH and public health nurses) on a mitigation plan that the state could issue on our behalf provided the most flexibility at this time. The plan development process would provide the ability of city staff and partners to work through a variety of scenarios and develop measures that make sense for our community.

Acting City Manager Abboud's report in our June 22 meeting packet included several examples of measures taken in other communities around Alaska. The most relevant to our circumstances (Seward and Whittier) are included as backup for your further review.

This is a fast moving subject and councilmembers Aderhold and Venuti may learn more between packet deadline and our July 1 meeting which we can share in the supplemental packet or during the meeting.

Recommendation: Discuss letter and vote.