

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold

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4 **RESOLUTION 19-082**

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6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
7 URGING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION &
8 PUBLIC FACILITIES TO KEEP THE SILVERTIP MAINTENANCE
9 STATION OPEN.

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11 WHEREAS, On September 4, 2019, the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public
12 Facilities (DOT&PF) issued a press release announcing its decision to close the Silvertip
13 Maintenance Station located near the junction of the Seward and Hope Highways, and to
14 have the Crown Point and Girdwood maintenance stations provide services to the Silvertip
15 region originally from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. but extended those hours on October 24, 2019 from 4
16 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and

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18 WHEREAS, The Silvertip Station is in the midst of the Kenai Mountains, enabling
19 DOT&PF to provide prompt road maintenance services in the heart of this elevated area of
20 steep slopes and frequent curves along the Seward Highway through Turnagain Pass; and

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22 WHEREAS, The Seward Highway is the sole roadway connection to the Kenai
23 Peninsula Borough, home to approximately 58,522 people, and is relied on daily for travel for
24 many purposes including access to medical services, the delivery of mail, goods and services,
25 other business travel, and many other important purposes; and

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27 WHEREAS, According to DOT&PF five positions were cut as a result of less than
28 expected revenue from the Motor Fuel Tax which supports DOT&PF's maintenance workers
29 and stations; and

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31 WHEREAS, The Silvertip Station is about 25 road miles from the Girdwood Station and
32 about 32.5 miles from the Crown Point Station, which leaves a large additional expense to be
33 covered by these stations, and is expected to result in substantially delayed and reduced
34 road maintenance services in the area previously covered by the Silvertip Station; and

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36 WHEREAS, This is also expected to result in increased road closures, depending upon
37 weather and road conditions, on this important arterial highway; and

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39 WHEREAS, The traffic between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. normally consists of heavy semi-
40 trucking including doubles and carrying heavier than normal loads in order to travel at a time
41 when most of the public is not on the road; and

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43 WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough has established the Eastern Peninsula
44 Highway Emergency Service Area which coordinates the provision of volunteer emergency

45 services along the Seward Highway and eastern portions of the Sterling Highway which under
46 current conditions requires volunteers to put in long hours to respond to accidents and
47 deliver injured people to medical services when needed; and

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49 WHEREAS, This severe reduction in road maintenance will also detrimentally impact
50 road safety by delaying the ability of emergency personnel to respond to vehicle accidents
51 occurring within the Seward Highway corridor and then deliver injured people to the health
52 care services they may require; and


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54 WHEREAS, The lack of maintenance during these hours will likely increase the volume
55 of heavier commercial vehicles travelling at the same times most smaller vehicles travel,
56 further increasing safety risks.

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58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, strongly
59 urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to keep the Silvertip
60 Maintenance Station open during the upcoming winter months with personnel needed to
61 properly maintain that section of the highway.

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63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor
64 Michael R. Dunleavy, John McKinnon, Commissioner DOT&PF; Wolfgang Junge, Director,
65 Central Region, DOT&PF; Mike Lesmann, Legislative Liaison, DOT&PF; Senator Peter Micciche;
66 Senator Gary Stevens, Representative Ben Carpenter, Representative Sarah Vance;
67 Representative Gary Knopp; Kenai Peninsula Borough; City of Seward; City of Kenai; City of
68 Soldotna; and the Municipality of Anchorage.

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70 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 25th day of November, 2019.

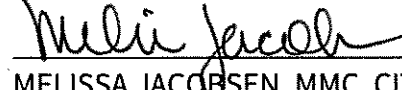
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CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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77 ATTEST:

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81 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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83 Fiscal Note: N/A

