

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

3 Aderhold

4 **RESOLUTION 20-035**

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6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
7 SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A KENAI PENINSULA
8 BOROUGH RESILIENCE AND SECURITY COMMISSION
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10 WHEREAS, Annual air temperatures in the Kenai Peninsula Borough have risen by 3.4
11 degrees Fahrenheit since 1969 and July 2019 was the warmest month on record in Alaska;
12 and
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14 WHEREAS, Over the past half-century annual available water on the western Kenai
15 Peninsula has declined 55%; and
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17 WHEREAS, In August 2019, most of the Kenai Peninsula Borough was in “Severe
18 Drought” status, and for the first time parts of the northern peninsula reached “Extreme
19 Drought” status; and
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21 WHEREAS, The Kenai Peninsula Borough issued three disaster declarations in summer
22 2019 in response to multiple fires and droughts caused or exacerbated by increased average
23 temperature and decreased level of rainfall; and
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25 WHEREAS, The 2019 Swan Lake Fire was far and away the most expensive fire in the
26 country at an estimated cost to fight of \$46 million; and
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28 WHEREAS, Continuation of current climate trends may increase the risk and intensity
29 of wildfires resulting from drought and increasing temperatures across the Borough; and
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31 WHEREAS, Current winter trends indicate that the southern Kenai Peninsula will lose
32 10-20% of its snowpack by 2030-2059; and
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34 WHEREAS, Water temperatures in non-glacial Cook Inlet streams are exceeding
35 physiological thresholds for salmon; and
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37 WHEREAS, Continuation of current climate trends threatens the future of salmon runs
38 on the Kenai Peninsula by depleting water levels and raising temperatures in local
39 watersheds; and
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41 WHEREAS, Ocean acidification will continue to damage vital nurseries for many fish
42 stocks in Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet; and

43 WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has determined that the effects
44 of the changing climate are “beginning to impact Alaska’s natural systems and the uses they
45 sustain;” and

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47 WHEREAS, Infrastructure and private property values are threatened by increasing
48 instances of flash flooding, which results in erosion and bluff instability; and

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50 WHEREAS, Bluff erosion rates on the eastern shores of Cook Inlet are 1 foot per year,
51 and 2.3 feet per year in the western Homer area; and

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53 WHEREAS, The Caribou Hills was the epicenter of a spruce bark beetle outbreak that
54 killed about 1 million acres of spruce on the Kenai Peninsula from the mid-1980s through the
55 1990s, sustained by consecutive summers of above-average temperatures; and

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57 WHEREAS, The spruce bark beetle’s range is expanding as the state warms, and the
58 scale of outbreaks is increasing; and

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60 WHEREAS, The City of Homer stands at risk of significant economic and social harm
61 should the integrity of local fisheries and surrounding natural environment be further
62 compromised; and

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64 WHEREAS, The City of Homer has already formally recognized the importance of
65 climate action by being the first city in the State to adopt a climate action plan; and

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67 WHEREAS, The City of Homer passed Resolution 19-078 supporting the inclusion of a
68 “Kenai Peninsula Borough Commission on Sustainability” in the Kenai Peninsula Borough’s
69 final 2019 Comprehensive Plan; and

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71 WHEREAS, The 2019 Kenai Peninsula Comprehensive Plan includes multiple
72 references to the need for a commission related to resilience and security, including the
73 following:

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- Focus Area: Land Use, Objective G
 - Strategy 1 states, “Form a Kenai Peninsula Borough Commission on Sustainability”
 - Strategy 2 states, “Develop a climate change action plan ...”
 - Focus Area: Energy & Utilities, Objective C states, “Support residential, community and region wide renewable energy initiatives and projects ... Charge the commission with developing a renewable energy strategy to investigate and make recommendations for feasible renewable energies for Kenai Peninsula”
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- Focus Area: Agriculture & Mariculture
 - Objective A states, “Support a more sustainable and resilient Kenai Peninsula by increasing production and distribution of quality, healthy agricultural products for local, state and export markets”
 - Objective B states, “Sustain and create new agriculture-related jobs and businesses”
 - Objective C states, “Encourage greater local and regional self-sufficiency”


- Focus Area: Solid Waste Services, Objective C states, “Increase awareness of and opportunities for waste reduction and landfill diversion, including Reduce, Recycle, Reuse”; and

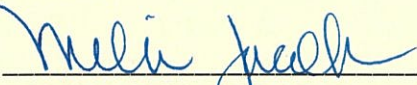
WHEREAS, It is in the Kenai Peninsula Borough’s interest to implement policies that mitigate against known hazards, invest in local agriculture, improve the efficiency of buildings and transportation, reduce solid waste, protect habitats of fish and wildlife, and invest in modern, clean, local sources of energy.

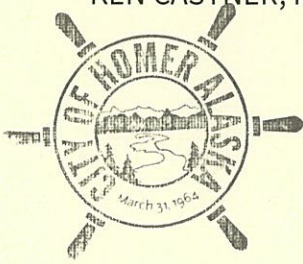
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska supports the establishment of a Kenai Peninsula Borough Resilience and Security Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be mailed to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Charlie Pierce, members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, and members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this 13 day of April, 2020.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK



Fiscal Note: N/A