A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
ESTABLISHING THE NONPROFIT ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT
PROGRAM (NERG), HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT
PROGRAM (HERG), SOCIAL SERVICES ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT
PROGRAM (SoSERG), AND CHILDCARE BUSINESS ECONOMIC
RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM (CBERG) IN RESPONSE TO THE
ECONOMIC DOWNFALL CAUSED BY MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSURE
PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE FACE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and
Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar, declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus
(COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020, Governor Mike Dunleavy signed a Public Health Disaster
Emergency Declaration that provided for health mandates to be issued when deemed
necessary by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Chief Medical
Officer, the Alaska Division of Public Health, and the Office of the Governor; and

WHEREAS, On March 17, 2020, Governor Dunleavy, in recognition of the tremendous
negative economic consequences of imposing social and business restrictions to avoid a rapid
spread of the virus effects, created the Alaska Economic Stabilization Team, a bipartisan group
of leaders working with the Dunleavy administration on a plan to protect the state’s economy
from the impacts of COVID-19 in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, On March 18, 2020, Ken Castner, Mayor of the City of Homer, issued a
Declaration of a Local Emergency, later ratified and extended by the Homer City Council
through Resolution 20-029, that found there to be “a wide-spread financial and public health
emergency that will require unexpected expenditures of public funds that should be separately
accounted, to perhaps be eligible for Emergency Disaster Relief”; and

WHEREAS, The Dunleavy administration issued a series of compulsory, and later
suggestive, directives and mandates that closed many businesses, placed restrictions on those
businesses that might remain open, ceased most interstate and intrastate travel, and generally
kept most citizenry isolated at home; and

WHEREAS, The Dunleavy administration issued a series of compulsory, and later
suggestive directives and mandates including “stay at home” orders, the banning of gatherings
of more than 10 people for social, spiritual, and recreational purposes, and further imposed that any activities outside the home meet social distancing and personal safety requirements; and

WHEREAS, The cumulative effects of the State mandates and restrictions have caused significant negative economic impacts to individuals and households such as lost employment and reduced work hours; have impacted the ability of nonprofit organizations to raise funds needed to operate and provide services; have resulted in a greater local need for and to support social services; and have compromised the ability of childcare service providers to operate safely; and

WHEREAS, Supporting individuals and households during this period of economic hardship is in the best interest of the City; and

WHEREAS, Nonprofits provide regular, ongoing essential services to City of Homer residents and contribute to the fabric and culture of our thriving community while also providing substantial positive economic impact and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Nonprofits and businesses that provide social services to individuals and households in the City of Homer are critical to support during a time of pandemic and economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, Continued functioning of childcare services is critical for individuals and households to return to work and childcare service providers struggle to remain viable while following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) health guidelines in the face of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska received $562.5 million in federal funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) that is directed to Alaska’s municipalities for direct relief designed to help meet each community’s unique needs and costs associated with coping with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer’s total allocation is $7,899,085.29: and

WHEREAS, On May 26, 2020, the Homer City Council passed Resolution 20-051 accepting the CARES Act grant and authorizing the City Manager to sign the grant agreement; and

WHEREAS, The first distribution to the City, $3,867,758.79, was appropriated via Ordinance 20-25(S) on June 8, 2020; and
WHEREAS, Two subsequent distributions of $2,015,663.25 will be available to the city on or about July 1, 2020 and October 1, 2020 once the City has expended 80% of previous distributions; and

WHEREAS, The City Council established the Small Business Economic Relief Grant (SBERG) Program through Resolution 20-057 on June 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic and City actions taken as a result to protect public health as described above have created immediate necessity for further economic relief programs to the community in the form of grants to individuals and households residing in the City of Homer and nonprofit organizations, social service nonprofits and businesses, and childcare service providers providing services to City of Homer residents; and

WHEREAS, The expenses associated with these additional COVID-19 economic relief programs were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 31, 2020 and are not accounted for in the FY20-21 budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Homer establishes the following programs to respond to the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated health mandates:

a) Household Economic Relief Grant (HERG) Program
b) Nonprofit Economic Relief Grant (NERG) Program
c) Social Services Economic Relief Grant (SoSERG) Program
d) Childcare Business Economic Relief Grant (CBERG) Program

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City’s ability to successfully run these programs is contingent upon receiving CARES Act funding from the State of Alaska.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the parameters of the abovementioned programs are adopted as the HERG, NERG, SoSERG, and CBERG program policies under this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Homer will exercise best efforts to communicate the opportunities for these programs throughout the community and provide technical assistance to anyone who is working to submit successful applications to the grant programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City administration will provide regular reports to the Homer City Council about the status of these programs including information such as the number of applications received, number of applications processed, issues encountered, and account balances of program funds.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these programs will be issued with a given application period to assess whether additional funds for the programs are needed or to assess if unspent funds allocated to these programs need to be reappropriated to meet other needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this Resolution shall preclude the Homer City Council from creating additional distributions to the community that follow CARES Act prescriptions, and that the provisions in this Resolution become effective upon adoption and shall continue until further formal action of the Homer City Council or until the date that all CARES Act funds must be expended on eligible costs by December 30, 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this ___ day of ________, 2020.

CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A