

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold

ORDINANCE 20-81(A)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA ESTABLISHING A MORTGAGE AND RENT RELIEF GRANT (MARRG) PROGRAM TO CITY OF HOMER RESIDENTS EXPERIENCING ECONOMIC HARDSHIP DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, APPROVING UP TO ~~\$339,200~~ **\$763,000** TO BE USED FOR MARRG, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION (AHFC) FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

WHEREAS, On May 26, 2020, the Homer City Council passed Resolution 20-051 to accept \$7,899,085.29 in grant funds from the State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development for necessary expenditures due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, These funds were made available to State, Local and Tribal governments through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to cover necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, To be eligible for reimbursement through CARES Act funding, expenses must be incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) administered the Alaska Housing Relief Program earlier this summer, which provided up to \$1,200 as a one- time payment to assist with housing costs for each eligible household, payable directly to their lender or landlord; and

WHEREAS, Approximately ninety households in the City of Homer qualified and took advantage of this statewide funding opportunity for one month of mortgage and rent relief payments; and

WHEREAS, These households have an income that is at or below 80% of the community's area median income as calculated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and were able to demonstrate how their household income was reduced on or after March 11, 2020 as a result of COVID-19 related closures, hour reductions or other lost income that is attributable to COVID-19; and

43 WHEREAS, The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic contributes to an ongoing need for
44 housing support which will continue and grow as the public health emergency extends into the
45 fall and winter; and

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47 WHEREAS, The MARRG program compliments the Household Economic Relief Grant
48 (HERG) program previously established by Homer City Council in that it allows qualifying
49 households to utilize HERG funds for eligible expenses other than rent or mortgage payments;
50 and

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52 WHEREAS, AHFC has agreed to continue administering the housing relief program for
53 Homer residents via a sub-recipient grant agreement with the City; and

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55 WHEREAS, Providing grants to residents experiencing economic hardship and housing
56 insecurity follows CARES Act requirements as interpreted by the US Department of the
57 Treasury's guidance for local governments, which allows for necessary expenditures incurred
58 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and for second order effects of the emergency;
59 and

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61 WHEREAS, It is necessary and in the best interest of the City of Homer to approve grant
62 funding for emergency rent and mortgage relief to assist Homer residents and households
63 affected by COVID-19.

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65 NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:

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67 Section 1. ~~\$339,200.00~~ **\$763,200.00** is appropriated for AHFC to carry out the MARRG
68 program which will provide individual grants to qualifying households in the City of Homer of
69 up to \$1, 200 per month for each of the ~~four~~ **six** months from ~~September~~ **July** through
70 December, 2020 for mortgage or rent relief.

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72 Section 2. The City Manager is authorized to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with
73 AHFC for the administration of the grant, and may establish and make amendments to grant
74 guidelines as necessary to carry out the lawful and efficient administration of the program.

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76 Section 3. This is a budget amendment ordinance, is not permanent in nature, and
77 shall not be codified.

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79 ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, this 26 day of October, 2020.

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81 CITY OF HOMER
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83 _____
84 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

85 ATTEST:

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87 _____

88 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

89

90

91 YES:

92 NO:

93 ABSTAIN:

94 ABSENT:

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96 First Reading:

97 Public Hearing:

98 Second Reading:

99 Effective Date:

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101 Reviewed and approved as to form:

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103 _____

104 Robert Dumouchel, City Manager

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106 Date: _____

Michael Gatti, City Attorney

Date: _____