

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

3 City Manager

4 **RESOLUTION 21-006**

5
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
7 OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF THE HOMER DEPARTMENT OF
8 MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE ON JUNE 30 2021, AS CURRENTLY
9 INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET PER GOVERNOR
10 DUNLEAVY.

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12 WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy recently released his proposed budget for the upcoming
13 fiscal year; and

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15 WHEREAS, The budget proposes closing the Homer Department of Motor Vehicles
16 (DMV) office as of June 30, 2021; and

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18 WHEREAS, The Homer DMV office serves not only the local Homer community but also
19 the entire southern Kenai Peninsula region consisting of eleven rural communities for a total
20 population of 13,077 permanent, year round residents; and

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22 WHEREAS, Closure of the Homer DMV office will require all these residents to travel
23 either 75 miles to Soldotna or 221 miles to Anchorage for DMV services; and

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25 WHEREAS, Licensing and permitting is a basic government function and reasonable
26 access should not be dependent on whether one resides in an urban or rural area; and

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28 WHEREAS, DMV provides the legal means for residents to buy, sell, own and operate
29 vehicles, machinery and marine vessels, and to move them over public roads and waterways;
30 and

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32 WHEREAS, DMV also provides workers with the necessary means to confirm their very
33 identity, and thereby obtain and maintain employment; and

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35 WHEREAS, Homer's economy and that of the southern Kenai Peninsula are intricately
36 linked to the tourism, maritime and fishing industries, and as such it depends on ready access
37 to DMV for issuance of truck, boat, and trailer titles and registrations ; and

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39 WHEREAS, New vessel registration and titling requirements enacted by State legislation
40 in the last two years has increased the number of boat owners requiring DMV services, and has
41 already put additional workload on DMV offices throughout the state, including Homer's; and
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43 WHEREAS, a local DMV office ensures that our industries can meet the required
44 licensing and registration requirements necessary for them to efficiently operate and
45 maximize their work time; and

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47 WHEREAS, The upcoming Federal requirement to possess a REAL ID for air travel and
48 the requirement for in-person issuance of those ID's adds additional workload pressure on
49 DMV offices across the state and time burdens to customers having to travel many miles to a
50 DMV office; and

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52 WHEREAS, When one considers how often transactions at the DMV reveal the need for
53 a return trip to DMV with some newly obtained document or bit of information to solve a
54 problem, the burden of distant travel on the customer is compounded; and

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56 WHEREAS, closing a regional DMV office during the COVID-19 pandemic and requiring
57 people to drive to distant communities to resolve issues with needed identification,
58 registrations, and permits risks cross-community transmission and compromises community
59 health and safety; and

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61 WHEREAS, The Homer DMV provides essential services to Homer and the surrounding
62 communities and is part of the backbone of our economy; and

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64 WHEREAS, Limiting access to DMV would unnecessarily limit our economy and yield
65 nothing more than negligible cost savings.

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67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby opposes the
68 closure of the Homer Department of Motor Vehicle Office on July 30, 2021.

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70 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council on this 11th day of January, 2021.

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79 ATTEST:

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CITY OF HOMER

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Ken Castner". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Melissa Jacobsen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK