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**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Venuti/Mayor

RESOLUTION 24-039(A)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
PROVIDING DIRECTION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY COMMISSION REGARDING THE CREATION OF A
BUSINESS LICENSING PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, The City does not currently have a business licensing program; and

WHEREAS, The adoption of a business licensing program has the potential to provide value by enhancing public safety, ensuring compliance with existing regulations, and providing opportunities for connections between the City and businesses by which the City can provide support and deliver public education; and

WHEREAS, The City Council chose “champions” for various City projects at a regular meeting held on October 23, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The investigation of a Citywide business license was a project to which Mayor Castner, Councilmember Venuti, and Economic Development Advisory Commission Chair Karin Marks were assigned champions; and

WHEREAS, The champions have met to discuss the potential scope of a business license program, but wish to have the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDC) take time to discuss and develop the idea further; and

WHEREAS, The Council wishes to memorialize direction to the EDC via resolution to ensure clarity for the Commission and the Public regarding the Council’s intent.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska requests that the Economic Development Advisory Commission investigate the concept of a business licensing program which considers or achieves the following:

- The proper level of license requirements
- Potential costs of licensure for business
- Potential costs for the City to administer the program
- Outreach to the Chamber of Commerce and business community
- **How can the City engage with the State of Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing and not duplicate the services available and information collected by that entity**
- **Pros and cons of a City Business Licensing Program**

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- Consideration of a “no cost program” for data collection purposes only
- Challenges and benefits of local business licensing programs in other Alaska communities.
- Enforcement Plans;
- What are the other existing licenses required in City limits and how will those licenses will be effected, changed, streamlined or overlap.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 8th day of April, 2024.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, ACTING CITY CLERK



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 24-039, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Providing Direction to the Economic Development Advisory Commission Regarding the Creation of Business Licensing Program.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: March 27, 2024
From: Julie Engebretsen, Community Development Director
Councilmember Venuti

The City of Homer does not have a general business license at this time. Council has identified a business licensing program as an interest. In October 2023, the Council designated Mayor Castner, Councilmember Venuti, and Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDC) Chair Marks as “champions” for this topic. The group has met a few times and wishes to utilize the EDC for further development of the concept before an ordinance is developed for Council consideration.

Depending on the structure of the program, a licensing ordinance could provide various benefits to the City and the community. Licensing can ensure that businesses are operating with existing regulations to include those related to zoning, safety, and public nuisances. It can help to ensure that applicable sales taxes are being collected and that there is a fair playing field for all commercial enterprises within the City. Licensing would also assist the City with data collection that assists planning for land use and operations like paving and snow plowing. It would also give the City a more streamlined channel to provide public education to businesses.

If Council passes the Resolution, the EDC will review existing business licenses regulations in similarly sized communities such as Seward and Palmer, and make recommendations to Council. Staff will investigate associated staff and financial costs for providing an online license program using the City’s existing software.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution 24-039

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

3 Venuti/Mayor

4 **RESOLUTION 24-039**

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40 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 8th day of April, 2024.
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