

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #23-55

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITIES GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,644,677

WHEREAS, the majority of public boat harbors in Alaska were constructed by the State during the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities represent critical transportation links and are the transportation hubs for waterfront commerce and economic development in Alaskan coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities are ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska for nearly 30 years has transferred ownership of most of these State-owned harbors, many of which were at or near the end of their service life at the time of transfer, to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities took over this important responsibility even though they knew that these same harbor facilities were in poor condition at the time of transfer; and

WHEREAS, consequently, when local municipal harbormasters formulated their annual harbor facility budgets, they inherited a major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford; and

WHEREAS, in response to this financial burden, the Alaskan Legislature passed and Governor approved legislation in 2006, supported by the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, to create the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program (AS 29.60.800); and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities utilizes a beneficial administrative process to review, score, and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facilities Grant Program, since state funds may be limited; and

WHEREAS, for each harbor facility grant application, these municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting cost and 50% of the construction cost; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of Sitka and Juneau have committed to contribute half of their project cost in local match funding for FY2025 towards harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Harbor Facilities Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, completion of these harbor facility projects is dependent on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facilities Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, during the last fifteen years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has only been fully funded twice; and

WHEREAS, a survey done by the Alaska Municipal League of Alaska's ports & harbors found that respondents, the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace former State-owned harbors has increased to at least \$500,000,000; and

WHEREAS, given that Alaska is a maritime state and that our harbors are foundational to both our way of life and to the economy of this great state it is in the public's best interest to maintain this critical infrastructure by using State, Local, and Federal funds to recapitalize the crucial harbor moorage infrastructure statewide; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, THAT:

The City of Valdez urges full funding in the amount of \$7,644,677 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the fiscal year 2025 State Capital Budget to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 21st day of November 2023.

City of Valdez, Alaska



Alan Sorum, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Elise Sorum-Birk, Deputy City Clerk

