

**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION 2017-074**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD,  
ALASKA, IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 92: AN ACT RELATING TO  
ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS**

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of derelict vessels currently litter Alaska's coastline and harbors and these numbers will increase every year unless action is taken to address aging fleets and changing commercial fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past two years alone there have been numerous derelict vessel situations that have cost the state, municipalities, and the federal government considerable expense, including two ex-Navy tugs in Adak, abandoned barges in Steamboat Slough near Bethel, and the tug Challenger that sunk off Juneau; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Seward recognizes the widespread costs and the environmental and navigational risks for both municipalities and the state associated with derelict vessels; and

**WHEREAS**, neighboring states have dramatically strengthened their derelict vessel prevention laws in the past five years to better prevent, track and manage derelict vessels, including raising fees to support state management of derelict vessels and requiring vessel insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1990, the Alaska legislature passed a resolution acknowledging the need to better understand and address the existing and growing problem of derelict vessels around the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska has outdated statutes regarding derelict vessels which lack the ability to track vessel owners, agency enforcement authority, statewide coordination of response, funding or vessel insurance requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators supported the creation of the ad hoc derelict vessel task force, which includes representatives from state and federal agencies, as well as the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, regional tribal representatives, federal and state legislative offices, and private industry; and

**WHEREAS**, over nine full-day meetings, the task force developed thoughtful, robust and meaningful proposed changes that will help all stakeholders around the state, including harbor facilities, better address and prevent derelict vessels; and

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**WHEREAS**, this will help protect harbor infrastructure, keep valuable moorage space in our harbor available, and will prevent unsustainable economic, environmental and navigational hazards; and

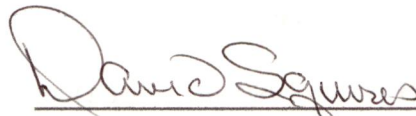
**WHEREAS**, the proposed changes will improve communication and coordination between Alaska's harbors and state and federal agencies, directly leading to decreased costs associated with managing derelict vessels.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA** that:

**Section 1.** The Seward City Council fully supports the passage by the Alaska State Legislature of Senate Bill 92.


**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Seward, Alaska, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017.

**THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**David Squires, Mayor**

AYES: Casagranda, Keil, McClure, Slater, Towsley, Horn, Squires  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda J. Ballou, MMC  
City Clerk

(City Seal)



# Agenda Statement



Meeting Date: November 27, 2017

To: City Council

Through: Jim Hunt, City Manager *[Signature]*

From: Norm Regis, Harbormaster

Agenda Item: SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 92: AN ACT RELATING TO ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS

**BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION:**

In 1990, the Alaska legislature passed a resolution acknowledging the need to better understand and address the existing and growing problem of derelict vessels around the state. In 2013, the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators supported the creation of the ad-hoc derelict vessel task force which includes representatives from state and federal agencies as well as the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators, regional tribal representatives, federal and state legislative offices, and private industry. Over nine full-day meetings, the task force developed thoughtful, robust and meaningful proposed changes that will help all stakeholders around the state, including harbor facilities, better address and prevent derelict vessels. The proposed changes will improve communication and coordination between Alaska’s harbors and state and federal agencies, directly leading to decreased costs associated with managing derelict vessels.

**INTENT:**

To support Senate Bill 92: an act relating to abandoned and derelict vessels.

<b><u>CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:</u></b>		Yes	No	N/A
1.	2030 Comprehensive Plan (page 9): Public Safety, Encourage marine safety activities.	X		
2.	Strategic Plan (page 18): Promote a safe community	X		
3.	Other (list):			

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no fiscal note for this Agenda Statement and Resolution; this is to support Senate Bill 92: an act relating to abandon and derelict vessels.

Approved by Finance Department: *Kmk*

**ATTORNEY REVIEW:** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X \_\_\_\_\_

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Council approve Resolution 2017-074, authorizing the City Administration and lobbyist to urge the state legislature passage of Senate Bill 92.