

Introduced by: Bob Herron, City Manager
Date: March 14, 2005
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution # 05-09

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING A 50% INCREASE IN THE ANCHORAGE HOTEL TAX

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council is an elected body that represents nearly 6,000 residents;

WHEREAS, Bethel residents and other rural Alaskans routinely travel to Anchorage and stay overnight for workshops, conferences, meetings, shopping, entertainment, medical appointments, and social/community events;

WHEREAS, rural and urban residents of Alaska who visit Anchorage on overnight trips, contribute to the Anchorage economy by spending money on goods and services while there;

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2005, Anchorage residents will have the opportunity to vote on a ballot measure calling for an increase in the Anchorage hotel tax from 8% to 12% in order to pay for the construction, maintenance, and operation of a new convention center;

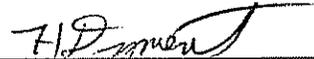
WHEREAS, the hotel tax increase is expected to generate \$93 million over the 30 years needed to pay off the revenue bond;

WHEREAS, the 50% hotel tax increase would put an undue burden on all other Alaskans, particularly those in the low to moderate income range, and would result in many Alaskans traveling to Anchorage less often and staying with friends and relatives in Anchorage more often to avoid the "penalty" being imposed upon them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethel City Council opposes the 50% Anchorage hotel tax increase, calls on the voters of Anchorage to reject this measure at the ballot box, and requests that city leaders of Anchorage devise a funding solution that does not unduly saddle all other Alaskans who contribute throughout the year to the Anchorage economy.

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**ENACTED THIS 14th DAY OF MARCH 2005 BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0
OPPOSED.**



Hugh Dymont, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Modigh, City Clerk