

Introduced by: Pete Williams, Acting City Manager
Date: March 8, 2016
Action: Does not Carry
Vote: 1-6

CITY OF BETHEL

Resolution # 16-10

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATORS PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE FY 2017 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET TO FULLY FUND THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel recognizes the majority of the public boat harbors in Alaska where constructed by the State during the 1960s and 1970s;

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

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;

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

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 due to the state's failure to keep up with deferred maintenance expenditures;

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

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

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WHEREAS, the City of Bethel is pleased with the process employed by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to review, score and rank applications to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program;

WHEREAS, municipalities that apply for harbor facility funds commit to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost;

WHEREAS, the City of Aleknagik, Municipality of Anchorage, City and Borough of Juneau, City of Kodiak, City and Borough of Sitka, City of Skagway, City of Valdez, City and Borough of Wrangell, and the City of Whittier offered to contribute \$20,648,514 in local match funding for the FY 2017 Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program;

WHEREAS, completion of these harbor facility projects depends on the 50% match from the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program;

WHEREAS, during the last ten years, the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program was only been fully funded twice by the State of Alaska, while the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace these former State-owned harbors increased to over \$100,000,000;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bethel urges the Governor and Alaska Legislature to provide \$20,648,514 in the FY 2017 State Capital Budget to fully fund the Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity in Alaskan coastal communities.