CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #23-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, PETITIONING THE STATE OF ALASKA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD UNDER ALASKA STATUTE 04.11.405 TO ISSUE UP TO 10 ADDITIONAL RESTAURANT OR EATING PLACE LICENSES

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez is incorporated as a home rule municipality and is eligible to seek additional Restaurant or Eating Place Licenses (REPL) from the Alaska Beverage Control Board through the process outlined in Alaska Statute 04.11.405; and,

WHEREAS, Valdez is a hub of regional commerce for much of the Copper River Valley and Prince William Sound; and,

WHEREAS, though only an estimated 3,950 people lived within Valdez city limits in 2022, many of the 2,619 residents of the Copper River Census Area and the estimated 3,063 individuals residing in the Chugach Census Area outside of Valdez city limits rely on Valdez for goods and services meeting the requirement outlined in 04.11.405(b)(1)(A); and,

WHEREAS, the Valdez Police Department's 11 sworn peace officers and numerous other staff members provide robust local law enforcement services including police patrol, criminal investigation, court officer services, and operation of the local Valdez Jail under contract with the State of Alaska Department of Corrections, meeting the conditions outlined in AS 04.11.405 (b)(1)(B); and,

WHEREAS, the City's Planning and Zoning Commission and Planning Department staff are tasked with wide-ranging planning and land use authority including but not limited to zoning regulation and oversight, building and construction administration, enforcement of building and zoning code violations, extensive community mapping including for emergency planning, processing subdivisions and plats, allotting environmental permits for municipal projects, management of City lands, updates to Valdez's Comprehensive Plan, and maintaining permanent property records for all property within the city limits meeting the conditions outlined in AS 04.11.405 (b)(1)(C); and,

WHEREAS, Valdez already currently exceeds the number of licenses allowed under AS 04.11.040(a) with 3 active full REPLs and an additional 3 active seasonal REPLs meeting the conditions outlined in AS 04.11.405 (b)(1)(D); and

WHEREAS, an estimated total of 73,306 visitors, almost 20 times the year round resident population, arrived in Valdez throughout 2022 and the tourism sector continues to grow rapidly for both independent travelers and cruise ship passengers; and,

WHEREAS, the seafood and oil and gas sectors contribute to a high number of non-resident workers in Valdez with 88.7 percent of seafood processing workers in the census area and 35 percent of Oil and Gas workers statewide reported as nonresidents in 2021; and,

WHEREAS, though data is not granular to the local level for worker residency, in 2018 there were 3,922 non-local workers in the former Valdez-Cordova Census area and 2021 data indicates that only 42.7 percent of total workforce in the newly formed Chugach Census Area were locals – so it can be extrapolated that Valdez has roughly 2000 nonresident workers; and,

WHEREAS, a limited number of restaurants exist in the general geographic region and not all have REPLs, with 9 year-round brick and mortar eating establishments and approximately 8 itinerant or seasonal food vendors within municipal boundaries as well as approximately 8 restaurants in the Copper River Census Area on the road system; and,

WHEREAS, when considering the cumulative number of geographically integrated populations, visitors and non-resident workers, Valdez serves up to 90,000 nonresidents each year, well above the additional population of 15,000 that would be required for the 10 additional licenses requested to maintain the 1 to 1500 ratio mandated under Title 4; and,

WHEREAS, allowing sale of beer and wine at additional local restaurants would allow for an increase in consumer options for locals and visitors alike and fosters entrepreneurial opportunities in Valdez.

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

The City Council of the City of Valdez petitions the State of Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for an allotment of 10 additional REPLs within municipal boundaries.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 5th day of July, 2023.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Sharon Scheidt

Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

SEAL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA INC. 1901

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk