

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #16-38

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE ALASKA AVALANCHE INFORMATION CENTER (AAIC) EFFORTS TO INSTALL SAFETY SIGNS IN KEY SNOWMOBILE ACCESS POINTS PROVIDING CRITICAL INFORMATION ON BACKCOUNTRY TRAVEL TO RAISE AWARENESS AND PREPARE RIDERS

WHEREAS, Alaska is ranked number one in the nation for both snowmobile and avalanche related injuries and deaths per capita; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is a recreation mecca attracting thousands each winter to snowmachine, hike, ski, snowboard, and sled; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Avalanche Information Center is a non-profit organization providing avalanche forecast and education services in six regions around Alaska including Valdez; and

WHEREAS, Alaskan's, youth, and new visitors to this state continue to be attracted to the rugged wilderness and mountains of this state due to advances in technology and motorized vehicles like snowmobiles, snow cats, airplanes and helicopters putting them at greater risk for avalanches and snowmobile related injuries; and

WHEREAS, the installation of safety signs with critical information and messaging regarding backcountry travel in key snowmobile access points has the potential to raise awareness and greatly reduce the number of incidents and fatalities associated with avalanches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that the Valdez City Council recognizes the need for snowmobile safety education and awareness to help reduce unintentional injuries and deaths and supports the efforts of the Alaska Avalanche Information Center to inform and educate those that travel, work and recreate in mountain terrain with the placement of safety signage in key snowmobile access points with written permission by land owners.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

ATTEST:

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Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

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Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk