

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #16-40

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA MUNICIPAL HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM IN THE FY 2018 STATE CAPITAL BUDGET

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

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

WHEREAS, these harbor facilities are the ports of refuge and areas for protection for ocean-going vessels and fishermen throughout the State of Alaska, especially in coastal Alaskan communities; and,

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

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; and

WHEREAS, consequently, when local municipal harbormasters formulated their annual harbor facilities budgets, they inherited major financial burden that their local municipal governments could not afford; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Valdez is pleased with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities administrative process to review, score and rank applicants to the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program since State funds may be limited; and

WHEREAS, for each harbor facility grant application, municipalities have committed to invest 100% of the design and permitting costs and 50% of the construction cost; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities of the City of Kake, the City of Ketchikan, the City and Borough of Sitka, the Municipality of Skagway, the City of Valdez, and the City and Borough of Wrangell have offered to contribute \$18,160,055 in local match funding for FY 2018 towards six harbor projects of significant importance locally as required in the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program; and

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

WHEREAS, during the last ten years the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program has only been fully funded twice; and

WHEREAS, during the last ten years the backlog of projects necessary to repair and replace these former State owned harbors has increased to over \$100,000,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that the City of Valdez urges full funding in the amount of \$18,160,055 by the Governor and the Alaska Legislature for the State of Alaska's Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY 2018 State Capital Budget in order to ensure enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal communities.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 1st day of November, 2016.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

Ruth E. Knight, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk