Proposed by: Health, Education, & Welfare Committee

Attorney Review: 02/17/2021 Vote: 5 Aye 1 Nay 0 Absent

## MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA RESOLUTION NO. 21-07R

A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 20-44R AND RESOLUTION NO. 21-04R TO LIFT THE MANDATE FOR COVID-19 TESTING OR STRICT SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR ALL TRAVELERS ARRIVING IN SKAGWAY.

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is caused by the SARS-Cov-2 virus (virus), a new strain of the coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans and is easily transmittable person to person; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the virus a pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of the virus in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS,** on March 16, 2020, the Municipality of Skagway declared an emergency based on the risk to the public posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic and substantial economic impacts to the Municipality of Skagway, which was confirmed by the Assembly on March 19, 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** since January 2021, COVID-19 vaccines have become readily available to Skagway residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of residents fully vaccinated against COVID-19 continues to rise, and provides a level of protection in the community; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the number of daily new COVID-19 cases in Alaska has been trending downward since December, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska's emergency declaration expired on February 14, 2021, and has not been extended by the Governor or renewed by the Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Skagway would like to encourage independent travelers to visit for the 2021 summer season, with local COVID-19 mitigation protocols in place to protect the public, health, welfare, and safety of the community; and

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WHEREAS, because the COVID-19 testing and strict social distancing mandate in the current Resolutions 20-44R and 21-04R may restrict independent visitors' full access to the community, the Borough Assembly has determined to lift the mandate and replace it with separate protocols to be developed for the community before the beginning of the summer season, based on the continued downward trend of COVID-19 cases and continued high degree of vaccines distributed in Skagway and nationwide;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway that Resolution No. 20-44R and Resolution No. 21-04R are hereby repealed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the manager will implement communication measures, in an attempt to provide all visitors the knowledge and opportunity to comply.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution shall become effective on March 19, 2021.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Borough Assembly of the Municipality of Skagway this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

Andrew Cremata, Mayor

ATTEST:

Emily A. Deach, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

