Adopted

HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA
RESOLUTION No. 24-05-1111

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Petitioning the State of Alaska Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Under Alaska Statute 04.11.405 to Issue up to six (6) Additional Restaurant or Eating Place Licenses.

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough 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, the Alaska Beverage Control Board has looked at a previous request for additional Licenses, and requiring the Borough to have a more robust public process. The Borough notified all license holders in the Haines Borough of the public hearing meeting dates, which included the August 1, 2024 Tourism Advisory Board meeting where they recommended approval of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the increased REPL would enhance our local economic development, create jobs in the region, and provide a path forward for already established businesses, and seasonal businesses, to transition into year-round brick–and-mortar establishments although most ports in Southeast Alaska are primarily summer destinations, Haines boasts a more year-round tourism economy, with a strong summer season due to cruise ship visits, but also a robust winter season featuring heli-skiing, the Bald Eagle Festival in the fall, and a growing Winter Festival in February; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Haines has an estimated population of 2,575 people year-round; and

WHEREAS, tourism constitutes 20% of the economy of Haines, highlighting its significant role in supporting local businesses and generating revenue for the community, thereby providing goods and services to a population far greater than the resident population within the boundaries of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the approximately 173,500 visitors to Haines included:

68,000 cruise ship visitors
42,000 visitors arriving on the Fast Ferry
34,000 visiting the Haines Borough by land and arriving through the international border with Canada
23,000 visitors arriving on the Alaska Marine Highway System ferries
6,500 visitors arriving by air into the Haines Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough Police Department maintains a law enforcement department with 5 sworn peace officers and numerous other staff members who provide local law enforcement services including police patrol and criminal investigation, meeting the conditions outlined in AS 04.11.405(b)(1)(B); and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough exercises planning and land-use authority through its Planning Commission and Planning Department staff are tasked with wide-ranging planning and land use authority including but not limited to permitting, zoning regulation and oversight, management of Borough lands and updates to the Borough's Comprehensive Plan, meeting the conditions outlined in AS 04.11.405(b)(1)(C); and

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WHEREAS, the Haines Borough currently exceeds the number of licenses allowed under AS 4.11.040(a) with three (3) active REPLs, meeting the conditions outlined in AS 04.11.405(b)(1)(D), and since the Haines Borough extends to the Canadian border, there are no REPLs outside the municipality (which is 2,726 square miles) that serve the public within the Haines Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough serves up to 173,500 nonresidents annually (173,000/1,500 = 115.33), well above the additional population required to support six (6) additional requested licenses, and

WHEREAS, the increased REPL would enhance our local economic development and create jobs in the region; and

WHEREAS, with significant increase in daily traffic, additional Restaurant or Eating Place licenses can stimulate economic growth. More licenses lead to more restaurants and eating places, which generates increased revenue from food and beverage sales, creating jobs and boosting the local economy. In addition, the tourism experience is enhanced by providing visitors with more dining options, encouraging them to spend more time in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, allowing the sale of beer and wine at additional local restaurants is in the public interest since it would allow for an increase in consumer options for locals and visitors alike and foster entrepreneurial opportunities in the Haines Borough;

WHEREAS, the additional Restaurant and Eating Place licenses would align with population ratios, and allow for effective regulation and enforcement of alcohol-related policies, all of which benefit the Borough and its residents,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines Borough Assembly petitions the Alaska State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to issue up to 6 additional restaurant or eating place licenses within the Haines Borough under Alaska Statute 04.11.405.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 27th day of August, 2024.

Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

Attest:

Kristine Kennedy, Borough Clerk

HAINES BOROUGH INCORPORATED SEAL OCTOBER 17 2002 STATE OF ALASKA

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