

# KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_

A Resolution of the Assembly of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough in Support COVID-19 Vaccination and Recognizing the Individual Right of Citizens to Choose

### RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, 2020, the community of Ketchikan has suffered broad economic damage due to state-mandated intermittent closures and restrictions of business operations; and
- B. WHEREAS, the community has suffered a cancellation of the entirety of the 2020 large cruise ship season which represents Ketchikan's single largest revenue-producing industry; and
- C. WHEREAS, efforts to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus have also led to intermittent closure of public schools and local government offices, as well as limited the public's ability to enjoy public recreational facilities, museums, and the like; and
- D. WHEREAS, the impact of the pandemic has also affected churches and other places of worship throughout the community by causing cancellation of services or by limiting in-person attendance thereby depriving citizens an important opportunity for fellowship during this time of fear, uncertainty, and financial difficulty; and
- E. WHEREAS, the pandemic restrictions have substantially hampered the public's ability to travel to visit family and friends and to attend community gatherings and events, the result of which has left many citizens suffering the effects of extended periods of isolation and lack of social contact; and
- F. WHEREAS, notwithstanding the closures and restrictions imposed in an effort to mitigate the spread, hundreds of residents and Ketchikan travelers have been infected with the virus; and
- G. WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration has recently issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for two COVID-19 vaccinations, supplies of which have already begun arriving in Ketchikan; and
- H. WHEREAS, vaccination is an integral part of controlling and eradicating the virus, which is, in turn, an indispensable step before the community will be able to fully resume vital economic and social activities; and

- I. WHEREAS, the cruise lines that visit Ketchikan and other tourism businesses servicing cruise ship passengers will require ports of call in 2021 to be COVID-safe travel destinations for their customers; and
- J. WHEREAS, some Ketchikan residents will be medically unable to receive the vaccination, or may for religious, constitutional, philosophical, or other health-related reasons exercise their affirmative right to opt out of receiving the vaccination; and
- K. WHEREAS, the Emergency Use Authorization issued by the FDA for the COVID-19 vaccine specifically requires citizens be informed of the option to accept or refuse administration of the [vaccine] ; and
- L. WHEREAS, the Alaskan Constitution explicitly recognizes and protects these freedoms to state: The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed ;
- M. WHEREAS, while recognizing these important rights exercised by some to not seek vaccination, the community is best-served by the broadest administration of the vaccination as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH as follows:

Section 1. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough encourages its citizens to avail themselves of the COVID-19 vaccine to reopen our community.

Section 2. The Borough also recognizes that vaccination is non-compulsory, there is an affirmative right under law to choose to opt out, and that citizens opting out ought not to be discriminated against for so choosing.

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Rodney Dial, Borough Mayor

*ATTEST:*

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Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

*APPROVED AS TO FORM:*

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Glenn Brown, Borough Attorney