

Presented by: Mayor Weldon

Presented: 06/08/2020

Drafted by: R. Palmer III

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2019-06(AH)

An Ordinance Appropriating up to \$1,000,000 to the Manager for a COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is easily transmittable person to person; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization 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 Assembly declared a local emergency in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, a substantial portion of the economy in the City and Borough of Juneau is dependent on tourism, especially cruise ships; and

WHEREAS, until the COVID-19 pandemic, Juneau expected to receive 1.5 million visitors on cruise ships between May and October 2020; and

WHEREAS, a combination of Canadian, Port of Seattle, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention directives due to COVID-19 caused the cruise lines to cancel nearly all of the 1.5 million cruise ship visitors forecasted to visit the City and Borough of Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the number of traditional unemployment type of claims increased by approximately 800 percent of normal as of late May, 2020, which equates to 1693 claimants; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of the unemployment claimants are younger people (148 claimants between 21-24 years old, and 495 claimants between 25-34 years old); and

WHEREAS, the United States developed the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression to combat high unemployment and to provide employment training; and

WHEREAS, the United States still values the underlying pillars of the Civilian Conservation Corps with the Youth Conservation Corps (16 U.S.C. 1701-1706) and the Public Lands Corps (16 U.S.C. 1721-1730); and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Findings and Purposes for the Public Lands Corps are relevant today (17 U.S.C. 1721): providing people with education and work opportunities, complete labor intensive rehabilitation of natural resource facilities that cannot be carried out by public agencies at existing personnel levels, and perform restoration and maintenance activities in a cost effective and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Stabilization Task Force recommended that the Assembly consider a COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program; and

WHEREAS, a COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program would help prevent eviction and assist in preventing homelessness, which is an eligible expense of CARES Act funds consistent with the Department of Treasury guidance dated May 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program would help employ and train furloughed, unemployed, and underemployed people, which is an eligible expense of CARES Act funds consistent with the Department of Treasury guidance dated May 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program would be equivalent to emergency financial assistance to individuals directly impacted by a loss of income due to COVID-19, which is an eligible expense of CARES Act funds consistent with the Department of Treasury guidance dated May 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program would help prevent the unemployment program of the State of Alaska from becoming insolvent, which is an eligible expense of CARES Act funds consistent with the Department of Treasury guidance dated May 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program is necessary due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program is being created by this ordinance and program expenses were not accounted for in the FY20 budget; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program expenses were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 31, 2020.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Emergency Appropriation. There is appropriated to the Manager the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for a COVID-19 Conservation Corps Program (Program) to be appropriated as follows and used consistent with this ordinance:

Parks and Recreation Supplemental Appropriation FY21	\$350,000.00
Eaglecrest Supplemental Appropriation FY21	\$300,000.00
Trail Mix, Inc. grant	\$350,000.00

The grant to Trail Mix, Inc. shall be available immediately and through the Program Deadline in Section 4 below.

Section 3. Source of Funds:

CARES Act Special Revenue Fund	\$1,000,000.00
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Section 4. COVID-19 Outdoor Service Program Purpose and Terms. The Program is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) **Intent.** The Program has multiple purposes including the following: to provide an employment training program for furloughed, unemployed, and underemployed people; to prevent eviction and homelessness; to prevent insolvency of the State unemployment fund; and to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals economically harmed by COVID-19. The recipients of Program funds must develop a work plan consistent with this intent; and
- (b) **Applicant Eligibility.** Only people furloughed, unemployed, or underemployed due to COVID-19 at time of application are eligible for crewmember positions; and
- (c) **Compensation.** Crewmembers and crew leaders must be compensated at least at minimum wage and consistent with the personnel rules of the employing entity; and
- (d) **Program Funds.** Program funds may be used for eligible payroll, program insurance, and to purchase necessary job training materials and supplies including but not limited to the following: personal protective equipment, tools, equipment rental (i.e. vehicles, heavy equipment, helicopter), consumables like fuel, de minimis materials like gravel, and transportation of materials. However, Program funds must not be used for the purchase of expensive materials (i.e. cabin kits and pre-manufactured bridges) or heavy equipment traditionally associated with a capital improvement project; and
- (e) **Public Property.** The project locations must be on publically-owned property (United States, State of Alaska, or City & Borough of Juneau); and
- (f) **Eligible Projects.** The following are labor intensive and eligible projects:
 - (1) Continuing trail improvements to the Treadwell Ditch Trail.
 - (2) Eaglecrest trail expansion.
 - (3) Bridge improvements on Perseverance and DuPont trails and Amalga Meadows.
 - (4) Placement of one or more cabins or shelters on CBJ remote lands.
 - (5) Mountain bike trail and skills park construction; and

(g) **Administration.** The City and Borough of Juneau Parks and Recreation Department shall coordinate the projects, may add additional projects consistent with this ordinance, and may provide reasonably necessary support and personnel to Eaglecrest and Trail Mix, Inc. to accomplish the intent of this ordinance; and

(h) **Program Deadline.** Except as authorized by an act of Congress, this Program expires on December 31, 2020. Any appropriation unexpended by December 31, 2020, shall remain in the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund. Any grant to Trail Mix, Inc. unexpended by December 31, 2020, shall be returned to the City and Borough of Juneau by February 15, 2021.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption. However, Section 2 of this ordinance is conditioned upon the City and Borough of Juneau receiving CARES Act funding from the State of Alaska.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk