Presented by: Assemblymember Peterson
Introduced: 02/13/89
Drafted by: B.J.B.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1364

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A POLICY TO USE THE PHRASE "PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES" RATHER THAN "THE HANDICAPPED" IN CITY AND BOROUGH LEGISLATION AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

WHEREAS, over the years the term "handicapped" has become accepted in referring to people who experience disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the term "handicapped" has its origins in the concepts of begging and weakness, and

WHEREAS, following World War I, disabled soldiers who were unable to work and who stood on street corners begging with cups in their hands became referred to as the "hand cappers," and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 1700's, when people placed bets on horses, a "handicap" was given to the weaker horses, and

WHEREAS, the phrase "a person with a disability" focuses on the person and views a disability as an experience in the person's life rather than the sum total of the person, and

WHEREAS, the Easter Seal Society of Alaska is urging the use of the phrase "a person with a disability" rather than "the handicapped" for the reasons stated above, and

WHEREAS, state statutes are currently in the process of being amended to replace the term "handicapped" with the phrase "people with disabilities," and

WHEREAS, the Assembly has determined that this change in terminology should also be made in city and borough legislation and other documents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That it is the policy of the Assembly to use the phrase "people with disabilities" rather than "the handicapped" in city and borough legislation and other documents.

2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 13th day of February, 1989.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk