

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 20-50**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTHWEST ALASKA HOMELESS
COALITION.**

WHEREAS: the Northwest Arctic Region experiences the second-highest rate of homelessness of any area in the state, which is often associated with overcrowding issues, a lack of affordable housing, economic shortfalls, unemployment, and job loss; and

WHEREAS: due to recent economic impacts and hardships, including layoffs related to the COVID-19 pandemic, more residents are experiencing loss of housing, food shortage, and hunger; and

WHEREAS: the Northwest Alaska Homeless Coalition has proposed a Community Food Service Program to help meet the urgent food needs in Kotzebue; and

WHEREAS: the Northwest Alaska Homeless Coalition intends to organize itself as a nonprofit corporation with its primary objectives being the opening of a permanent homeless shelter, connecting clients with social services, and assessing, quantifying, and addressing overcrowding issues in the Region to improve and provide better living conditions; and

WHEREAS: the Coalition's proposed bylaws would establish a Board of Directors with one director from each of the following: the Borough, Maniilaq Association, NANA Regional Corporation, and Northwest Iñupiat Housing Authority, plus an at-large member from the Kotzebue community; and

WHEREAS: the Northwest Alaska Homeless Coalition has asked the Borough for a financial contribution to support the proposed Community Food Service Program, and the Borough contributed a portion of its CARES Act funds to assist with this program; and

WHEREAS: the Northwest Alaska Homeless Coalition has requested the Borough's support and commitment to participate in the establishment of the nonprofit Coalition, including by having a Borough representative sit on the nonprofit's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS: the Borough recognizes the importance of addressing homelessness and food insecurity in the Region; and

WHEREAS: the Community Food Service Program would help address hunger and food insecurity in Kotzebue; and

WHEREAS: the establishment of the Northwest Alaska Homeless Coalition as a nonprofit corporation would help provide long-term resources to address homelessness and improve living conditions in the Region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly supports the formation of the Northwest Arctic Homeless Coalition as a nonprofit corporation and commits to participate in its establishment through a Borough representative sitting on the nonprofit Board of Directors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28th DAY OF JULY 2020.



Nathan Hadley, Jr., Assembly President

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 28th DAY OF JULY 2020.



Lucy S. Nelson, Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 28th DAY OF JULY 2020.



Stella Atoruk, Borough Clerk

ATTEST:

