

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTION 20-58**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST  
ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING  
RESTRICTIONS FOR NON-RESIDENT HUNTING IN  
GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 23 DUE TO THE COVID-  
19 PANDEMIC.**

**WHEREAS:** the Northwest Arctic Borough is the home rule regional government for Northwest Alaska; and

**WHEREAS:** Game Management Unit 23 covers a substantial portion of the Northwest Arctic, including Kotzebue Sound, the Chukchi Sea, and the Arctic Ocean drainages from the Goodhope River drainage to Cape Lisburne, and all seaward waters and lands within three miles of these coastlines as depicted in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution and incorporated by reference; and

**WHEREAS:** land status in Unit 23 is a patchwork of jurisdictional requirements applied by federal, state, borough, and private land managers, making a coordinated effort to address common concerns elusive and challenging; and

**WHEREAS:** on March 18, 2020, Mayor Nelson issued an Emergency Proclamation Declaration of Public Health Disaster in response to the imminent threat of COVID-19 to the Northwest Arctic Borough under NABC § 12.16.060 that was ratified and extended by the Assembly under Resolution 20-12; and

**WHEREAS:** COVID-19 continues to spread in Alaska and reported cases keep rising while death tolls increase, and the imminent threat of a widespread community outbreak of COVID-19 increases and threatens with devastating effects; and

**WHEREAS:** because of Borough communities' isolation, lack of immediate resources, limited medical resources, and overcrowded housing, Borough residents are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS:** the villages around Nome were decimated by the 1918/1919 Spanish Flu pandemic where on October 20, 1918, a flu virus was introduced into Nome by persons traveling to Nome on the S.S.

Victoria, which killed 162 Native Alaskan residents of Nome in eight days, 70 of 150 Teller residents, and 140 of 310 Wales residents; however, during the same 1918 flu pandemic in the Nome area, the villages of Shishmaref and Shaktolik were not infected with the flu virus by posting guards and enforcing a rigid quarantine; and

**WHEREAS:** every year, large numbers of outside hunters, guides, transporters, and outfitters come to Unit 23 for the unique big game hunting opportunities; and

**WHEREAS:** while the Borough normally supports visitors to the Northwest Arctic, and particularly activities that support economic development for our local communities, the COVID-19 pandemic has a direct, immediate risk of community spread between travelers coming from outside into the region and our vulnerable population; and

**WHEREAS:** many of the outside hunters, guides, transporters, and outfitters will be traveling from COVID-19 hot spots and may not be screened, tested, or quarantined prior to entering the region; and

**WHEREAS:** many of the outside hunters, guides, transporters, and outfitters may be unaware of local village emergency health orders and travel restrictions; and

**WHEREAS:** in order to protect the health, safety, and security of the region's residents, the Borough supports restricted access to Unit 23 for non-resident, outside hunters, guides, transporters, and outfitters; and

**WHEREAS:** the COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated food security challenges and subsistence resource scarcity; and

**WHEREAS:** any outside harvesting of Unit 23 big game further limits local resident subsistence opportunities and further threatens food security during these difficult times.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY:** the Borough supports restrictions on non-resident hunters, guides, transporters, and outfitters in Game Management Unit 23 during the COVID-19 pandemic and respectfully urges our regional partners and local entities to cooperate together to the fullest extent possible to address and mitigate the risks associated with this deadly pandemic.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2020.



Nathan Hadley, Jr., Assembly President

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2020.



Lucy S. Nelson, Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2020.



Borough Clerk

ATTEST:

