



# CITY OF SAINT PAUL

## ALASKA

### RESOLUTION 20-11

#### **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SAINT PAUL LEADERSHIP COALITION'S REQUEST THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC FACILITIES CERTIFY AND FUND THE SAINT PAUL AIRPORT WITH ITS PART 139 AIRPORT OPERATING CERTIFICATE**

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Island, Alaska is located approximately 766 miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska, across approximately 335 miles of open ocean, in the middle of the sub-arctic Bering Sea; and,

**WHEREAS**, due to Saint Paul Island's remote location, air service is the only form of efficient passenger air transportation on and off the island; and,

**WHEREAS**, the elimination of essential and scheduled air service in April of 2020 with Ravn Air Group's shut down, created abandonment, isolation and an economic crisis; and,

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Island depends on consistent scheduled passenger and cargo air service, which are fundamental and critical to the survival of our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, Saint Paul Airport was certified as a Part 139 airport up until the early 2000s when the Alaska Department of Transportation/Public Facilities de-certificated the airport due to Reeve Aleutian Airways terminating service to the island with the Electra. Reeve serviced Saint Paul Island with 727 and 737 jet for a short period of time; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Saint Paul Airport and runway are owned and maintained by the State of Alaska; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Saint Paul (City) considers the elimination of scheduled air service completely unacceptable. The lives and livelihoods of our residents and our economy are in jeopardy due to untenable schedule passenger air service at this time; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City is joined and is working with the Saint Paul Island Leadership Coalition (SPILC) made up of the City, Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island, Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, and Tanadgusix Native Village Corporation to improve and provide essential, reasonable, and reliable passenger air service to Saint Paul Island; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City is working other municipalities in the Aleutian/Pribilof region improve and provide essential, reasonable, and reliable passenger air service passenger air service for this region; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City and SPILC are approaching Alaska Airlines and other carriers to improve and provide essential, reasonable, and reliable passenger air service to Saint Paul Island and other communities in the Aleutian region; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City and SPILC are simultaneously working on Part 139 certification process while approaching Alaska Airlines and other carriers to secure an agreement for passenger air service once Part 139 certificate is in place for the Saint Paul Airport; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the goal of the City to have improved essential, reasonable, and reliable passenger air service to Saint Paul Island on a larger aircraft that requires Part 139 certification, such as the Alaska Airlines 737; and,

**WHEREAS**, tagging along an additional flight to Cold Bay and on to Saint Paul Island may allow for pooling of resources and consolidating of passenger loads in the region providing a cost effective and efficient solution while continuing to provide essential, reasonable, and reliable; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City signed onto a letter to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation/Public Facilities Commissioner MacKinnon dated April 30, 2020 supporting certification of the Saint Paul Airport as a Part 139 airport (*see attached*); and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul supports the St. Paul Leadership Coalition's request that the Commissioner of DOT/PF MacKinnon work with the DOT/PF team to certify the Saint Paul Airport with a Part 139 Airport Operating Certificate; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul requests support and funding from the State of Alaska, DOT/PF, and Federal Aviation Administration to achieve this critical undertaking and ongoing operation of the Saint Paul Airport as a Part 139 airport; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul strongly urges the State of Alaska to recognize the needs of Saint Paul Island and the necessity for an appealing proposal to encourage larger sustainable air carriers to provide air transportation services to our community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
THIS\_\_ DAY OF\_\_\_\_\_, 2020 BY \_\_\_ IN FAVOR \_\_\_ OPPOSED AND \_\_\_ ABSTAIN.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacob N. Merculief, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monique Baker, City Clerk