



City of Cordova
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**JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA
AND
THE CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
OPPOSING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY'S FY20 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

City of Cordova Resolution No. 04-19-17
Cordova School District Resolution No. 2019: 04

WHEREAS, on February 13, 2019, Governor Dunleavy released his FY20 draft State Budget which proposes \$1.6 billion in State funding cuts while appropriating nearly \$2 billion for Alaska Permanent Fund dividends; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy proposed eliminating all funding for the arts and public broadcasting, which could significantly impact KLAM Radio programming in Cordova. First airing in May 1954, KLAM is an important local news media outlet and the primary emergency alert provider in the City of Cordova; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy proposed more than \$300 million in cuts to K-12 education, which would effectively result in a loss of approximately \$1.2 million in State aid for the Cordova School District. To absorb these reductions, the Cordova School District would need to consider eliminating approximately twelve (12) of twenty-five (25) teaching positions within the District (48%), or the equivalent of 75 percent of instructional and operational support staff positions. Additional considerations would need to include the potential elimination or reduction of Pre-K and Kindergarten services, all after school athletic and academic activities, and physical education, art, CTE, and STEM programs; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's draft budget reduces State funding for the University of Alaska system by approximately 41 percent. The University of Alaska President has publicly stated that some university campuses likely would be closed if this reduction were put into effect. It is unclear how Prince William Sound College, a satellite campus of UAA and a critical partner in providing a yearly average of between 15-20 courses to more than 100 Cordova students, totaling over 450 cumulative credits earned by our students, will be impacted; and

WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy's draft budget eliminates all funding for the School Bond Debt Reimbursement Program. The City of Cordova received approximately \$952,265 in reimbursements from the State of Alaska through this program in FY18 and anticipates receiving approximately \$926,143 in FY19 for projects planned and commenced years ago. The elimination of funding for this program significantly disrupts the City's long-term financing plans and support of important capital projects, thus further shifting costs to local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Marine Highway System consists of a 3500-mile long system that comprises paved roads and waterways connecting 33 communities within the State and has provided essential transportation services in Alaska since 1963; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposal eliminates 75 percent of State funding for the Alaska Marine Highway System, an integral piece of infrastructure between coastal communities and economic hubs within the State. As a result, AMHS is no longer taking reservations past the end of September 2019, which will significantly impact economic opportunities and growth, including tourism, not only in these communities, but across Alaska, as a whole; and



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WHEREAS, Governor Dunleavy’s budget proposal diverts Fisheries Business Taxes from local communities to the State of Alaska. The City of Cordova has received more than \$5.9 million in shared raw fish taxes over the past five years, which is approximately half of the taxes collected by the State from fish processed in Cordova during that same time; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s proposed budget reduces healthcare funding statewide by 25.6 percent, or \$714 million. This reduction could significantly impact the Cordova Community Medical Center’s ability to provide its current breadth of medical care and services to Cordova residents; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Governor’s Dunleavy’s proposed budget is a net loss of approximately \$5,678,847 to the City of Cordova in the areas of education cuts, shared fisheries taxes, school bond debt reimbursement loss, loss of Medicaid to the locally owned City hospital, Alaska Marine Highway System service reductions, negative impacts to the University of Alaska system, and loss of a variety of grant opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Governor Dunleavy’s Budget Proposal would irreparably harm Cordova’s local economy by shifting state expenses onto local taxpayers and would reduce state funds that assist the District and City in providing for the educational needs of our students, the City Council of the City of Cordova and the Cordova School District Board of Education are resolute in strongly opposing the Governor’s FY20 Budget Proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Cordova and the Cordova School District Board of Education stand in favor of an incremental approach to balancing the State of Alaska budget and the development of a long-range fiscal plan that ensures a viable and predictable revenue landscape for the State.

This resolution shall be in effect upon adoption by the City Council of the City of Cordova and the Cordova School Board.

Passed and Approved by the City Council of the City of Cordova on April 17, 2019.



Clay R. Koplin, Mayor

Passed and Approved by the Cordova School District Board of Education on April 10, 2017.



Barb Jewell, Board President

ATTEST:



Susan Bourgeois, CMC, City Clerk

