



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

RESOLUTION 25-08

A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMERGENCY FOR SAINT PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA DUE TO THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE/LOSS OF AN AIR CARRIER TO PROVIDE REGULAR SCHEDULED PASSENGER SERVICE

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul Island was incorporated on June 29, 1971, under the laws of the State of Alaska as a Second-Class City, assuming the responsibility and authority to provide public services from the United States government and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2025, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued Order 2025-4-8 requesting proposals from air carriers interested in providing Essential Air Service (EAS) to Saint Paul Island, Alaska for the new term beginning October 1, 2025, with or without subsidy with a due date for proposals no later than May 14, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2025, Ravn Alaska filed a 140-day notice to the USDOT to terminate subsidized EAS to Saint Paul Island; and

WHEREAS, the USDOT extended the proposal deadline multiple times; and

WHEREAS, several air carriers expressed interest in providing EAS to Saint Paul Island, however, only Kenai Aviation filed a proposal, on June 23, 2025, to provide EAS to Saint Paul Island; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2025, Ravn Alaska, without proper notice, announced on their website that their last day for service to Saint Paul Island would be July 31, 2025, even though they were required to provide service until September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Kenai Aviation indicated if awarded the EAS for Saint Paul Island, they would not be able to start service until August 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, the USDOT has not awarded the EAS contract to Kenai Aviation, leaving Saint Paul Island without regular air service for a period of 15 days; and,

WHEREAS, air service is crucial for the community of Saint Paul Island to facilitate economic growth, conduct local businesses, and provide access to essential services like healthcare; and

WHEREAS, reliable air travel also supports tourism and improves the overall quality of life for residents by providing access to national and global destinations; and

WHEREAS, to maintain air service during the 15-day gap, community entities have had to arrange scheduled charter services at significant financial and human resource cost, while already facing strain from fishery closures; and

WHEREAS, Saint Paul Island, a community of approximately 340 mostly Unangan (Aleut) residents, is experiencing economic and social crisis due to the lack of scheduled passenger service and the need for costly charter arrangements so that people can access essential services in Anchorage, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, while the City's goal in the current economic and social emergency is to maintain essential and critical municipal services (public safety, electricity, water, sewer, refuse, roads, heating fuel) for its

residents and businesses, this will be extremely difficult with the loss in regular scheduled air service and the high cost to charter flights; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest and welfare of the City and community to take all reasonable actions and precautionary measures to safeguard itself from the economic and social impacts from the absence or loss of regular scheduled air service; and

WHEREAS, by declaring a state of emergency due to the absence or loss of regular scheduled air service, the City is empowered to coordinate and implement plans aimed at protecting the community from the economic and social impacts of this transportation emergency by any means necessary; and

WHEREAS, the City's normal budget process is not a quick process which would require two regular meeting, which is not conducive to responding to the community's immediate needs and this emergency; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul hereby declares the temporary absence or loss of an air carrier to provide regular scheduled air service an economic and social emergency subject to the provisions of the Chapter 8.10 of the City of Saint Paul Code of Ordinances; and

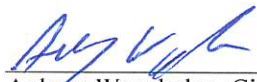
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul authorizes the City Manager to act as Incident Commander for this emergency and to take all necessary steps to coordinate with the Federal and State governments, congressional offices, Saint Paul Island entities, stakeholders, and others to respond to this emergency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul hereby authorizes Fifteen thousand dollars and zero cents (\$15,000.00) to be allocated to cover the cost of charter flights and potential loss in fees collected for flights that may not be fully booked; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by vote of the City Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL THIS 7th DAY OF AUGUST 2025 BY 6 IN FAVOR 0 OPPOSED AND 0 ABSTAIN.

ATTEST:



Aubrey Wegebelen, City Clerk


Jacob N. Mercurief, Mayor