



**RESOLUTION ROA-V 01 ESTABLISHING STANDARDS (THE ANCHORAGE NORTH STAR PROGRAM) TO SECURE OPENING OF REPL LICENSEE HOLDERS (RESTAURANT EATING PLACE LICENSEES) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE TO ALLOW RESTAURANTS TO OPEN ON**  
**DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 2020.**

This Resolution would require lifting the current EO mandate and implementing the Anchorage North Star Program by December 14, 2020, to permit restaurants to operate indoor dining at 50% capacity on December 15, 2020.

**GOAL:**

To define restaurant operational standards (specifically, the “Anchorage North Star Program”) that when adopted by both the MOAHD and by participating restaurants, will provide an operating standard that will allow restaurants to reopen indoor dining at 50% capacity, and operate under COVID-19 emergency orders, while providing the highest level of safety for our staff and guests.

**WHY WE ARE DOING THIS:**

COVID-19 has created a no-win situation for the hospitality industry in Alaska and specifically Anchorage during mandated closures in August and now in December. The cost of keeping restaurants in Anchorage closed is both unsustainable and economically irreversible. Thousands of employees are now being laid off for the second time in 4 months. Vendors and suppliers to restaurants are being affected. We understand the challenges that come with reopening safely are equally difficult. However, the Anchorage North Star Program will enable thousands of employees to return to work and save many independent restaurants from permanent closure while allowing for higher safety and standards during COVID-19 and beyond. The application of ROA-V- 01 (the Anchorage North Star Program) will also allow for an increase in food safety and sanitation post-pandemic. This will allow for increased trust and growth in the hospitality sector in Anchorage increasing jobs and overall revenues for the municipality.

WHEREAS, Emergency Order EO-16, dated November 25, 2020, closes in-person dining and service at businesses in the hospitality industry, including restaurants, bars, breweries and nightclubs; and

WHEREAS, targeting the hospitality industry as a whole through measures like EO-16 have not proven to be effective and to implement EO-16 at this time with no

conclusive reopening plan already in place is irreversibly disastrous for the industry; and

WHEREAS, the closure of indoor dining at such businesses has led to massive layoffs of employees and has impacted vendors and supplies alike; and

WHEREAS, the thousands of employees losing their jobs already have been suffering financially due to earlier Emergency Orders or similar Mandates; and

WHEREAS, the employees losing their jobs will be unable to provide for themselves or their families; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of employees of the hospitality industry and other affected industries wish to continue working; and

WHEREAS, restaurants outside of Anchorage Municipality remain open, operating at 100% capacity; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of earlier Emergency Orders and similar Mandates, the large majority of businesses in the hospitality industry faithfully complied with those government instructions, adapting business operations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and improve the safety of employees and customers; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Order EO-16 fails to take into account of the severe economic and human cost related to the consequences described above, such as increased unemployment, homelessness, addiction, food insecurity, depression, domestic violence, suicide, and reduced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, government aid in the form of grants or loans to affected businesses has been insufficient to meet the needs of these businesses and their employees; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, COVID-19 is mostly spread when people are physically near (within 6 feet) a person with COVID-19 or have direct contact with that person; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has provided guiding principles and actions operators of restaurants can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread, such as personal prevention practices (such as hand washing, staying home when sick, and wearing masks) and workplace prevention practices, like environmental cleaning and disinfection, all of which prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the resolution as proposed will bring back an estimated 2,000 - 4,000 jobs in Anchorage alone; and

WHEREAS, restaurant revenue will return during the critical holiday season where revenue is needed to help navigate the historically slow winter season during January-March; and

WHEREAS, vendors and suppliers will be revived with continued demand for products from restaurants; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage North Star Program will ensure the highest level of safety and procedures for guest and staff to reduce the risk associated with restaurant dining; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Responsible Restaurateurs requests the Acting Mayor of the Municipality of Anchorage to immediately reconsider the restrictive requirements of Emergency Order EO-16 that deeply impacts hospitality industry businesses and employees; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, Resolution ROA-V-01 establishing standards to secure opening of REPL licensee holders (restaurant eating place licensees) in the Municipality of Anchorage to be effective **December 15, 2020**, which allows indoor dining at 50% capacity is approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the \_\_\_\_\_ with a vote of \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date