CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution #22-03

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDING THAT MASKS BE WORN IN INDOOR PUBLIC PLACES WHEN THE COMMUNITY HAS HIGH COVID-19 TRANSMISSION RATES

WHEREAS, wearing a mask can slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting the release of virus into the air and is a critical public health tool for preventing spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, the community of Bethel is considered to have high transmission rates when there are more than six residents with COVID-19 in the last seven days, between February 3rd and 9th, the community of Bethel had 136 reported new cases of COVID-19 which is lower than the previous seven days (Jan. 27- Feb. 2) when 252 new cases of COVID-19 were reported;

WHEREAS, in response to public testimony requesting the City Council lift the Mask Mandate and the Lower Kuskokwim School District Board requested the City Council allow the District to establish their own mask policies, the Bethel City Council did not renew the community mask mandate;

WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council recognizes the importance of masking to help prevent continued spread of COVID-19 and strongly encourages community members to choose to wear masks until the community is no longer seeing high transmission rates;

WHEREAS, according to the CDC, people, including children over the age of 2, should wear a mask in indoor public places if they are:

- Not fully vaccinated
- Fully vaccinated and in an area with substantial or high transmission
- Fully vaccinated with weakened immune systems

WHEREAS, the CDC also says masks should not be worn by:

- Children under 2 years of age
- A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, for reasons related to the disability
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the CDC workplace risk assessment
WHEREAS, the Bethel City Council recognizes that it is important to continue to slowing the spread of the virus and recommends individuals wear face covering over their noses and mouths when in public settings.

ENACTED THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022 BY A VOTE OF _ IN FAVOR AND _ OPPOSED.

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Mark Springer, Mayor

ATTEST:
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Lori Strickler, City Clerk