

CITY OF COFFMAN COVE

RESOLUTION 18 04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COFFMAN COVE IN SUPPORT OF THE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA (RCA) HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND FOR GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE ISSUES PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND RESIDENTS FACE CONCERNING LACK OF OR LIMITED WIRELESS COMMUNICATION AND BROADBAND DATA SERVICE

WHEREAS, the City Council is the governing body of Coffman Cove, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Coffman Cove and other communities on Prince of Wales Island struggle to have reliable wireless communications; and

WHEREAS, wireless communication is a key component of everyday modern life; and

WHEREAS, lack of or intermittent wireless communications has a negative impact on economic development, especially those business that work outside such as the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, wireless communications is a critical component for all emergency services, especially outside of municipal boundaries; and

WHEREAS, there are portions of the City of Coffman Cove that have no landline or wireless communications capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Coffman Cove have limited Internet service due to bandwidth and speed issues; and

WHEREAS, there are times during normal business hours that internet service goes down or slows limiting or cutting off access to a critical component of today's business world; and

WHEREAS, new computer software requires continuous access to the Internet or a server to operate, including online banking and QuickBooks; and

WHEREAS, many businesses use the Internet for business, mail, billings and communications via some form of electronic system such as email, Skype or video conferencing; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coffman Cove, Coffman Cove Public Library, Coffman Cove School, Coffman Cove Medical Clinic, Coffman Cove Ferry Terminal and many businesses and residents rely on the Internet and telecommunications for communication, banking, business and educating our children; and

WHEREAS, reliable high-speed communications and Internet service are key qualities that new (and old) businesses must have to survive and compete in today's world; and

WHEREAS, the lack of access to unlimited high-speed communications and Internet service negatively impacts the economics of Coffman Cove and creates a disadvantage for our children and businesses trying to compete with other parts of Alaska and the world; and

WHEREAS, Coffman Cove has several available sites for communication and data receiving and transmitting equipment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Coffman Cove, hereby supports and encourages the RCA to hold public hearings on Prince of Wales Island to gather information on the issues Prince of Wales Island residents face concerning lack of or limited wireless communication and broadband data service.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018

\_\_\_\_\_, Mayor: Perry Olson

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk: Jean Soderberg