

CITY OF SOLDOTNA
RESOLUTION 2021-022

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALASKA HOUSE BILL 51, AN ACT RELATING TO
AGGRAVATING FACTORS CONSIDERED AT SENTENCING

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute 12.55.155 defines factors in aggravation and mitigation relating to the sentencing of a defendant convicted of an offense, allowing a court to increase the severity of a sentence for aggravating factors; and

WHEREAS, AS 12.55.155(c)(22) specifies factors to include an offense directed at "a victim because of that person's race, sex, color, creed, physical or mental disability, ancestry, or national origin"; and

WHEREAS, hate crime protections outlined in AS 12.55.155(c)(22) do not currently include sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, Soldotna is a diverse community with a wide range of backgrounds among residents who fall along the full range of the sexual orientation and gender identity spectrums; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental civil and human rights of all individuals should be upheld regardless of a person's race, sex, color, creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, acts of racism, bigotry, xenophobia, religious discrimination, and acts of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity have no place in our community; and

WHEREAS, during the 31st State of Alaska Legislature, Representative Gary Knopp sponsored House Bill (HB) 198; and

WHEREAS, HB 198 would have amended AS 12.55.155(c)(22) to expand hate crime protections to include "sexual orientation or gender identity," but was unable to advance in the state legislature following the death of its sponsor, Representative Gary Knopp; and

WHEREAS, the City of Soldotna passed Resolution 2020-006, "Supporting Alaska House Bill 198, An Act Relating to Aggravating Factors Considered at Sentencing," on January 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, HB 51 carries forward the same goals set forth by Representative Gary Knopp HB 198 and is supported by the City Council of the City of Soldotna;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

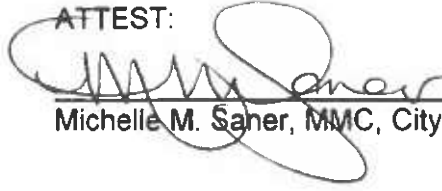
Section 1. That the Soldotna City Council supports HB 51 as currently drafted, and any subsequent amendments thereto that accomplish the same purpose and intent of expanding hate crime protections to include "sexual orientation or gender identity".

Section 2. That copies of this resolution shall be sent to Alaska Senator Peter Micciche, Alaska Representatives Ronald Gilham, Ben Carpenter, Sarah Vance, Andy Josephson, Grier Hopkins and Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY, 2021.


Paul J. Whitney, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle M. Sauer, MMC, City Clerk

Yes: Carey, Chilson, L. Parker, Hutchings, Ruffridge, P. Parker
No: None