



CITY OF BARROW

"Farthest North Incorporated City"

RESOLUTION 04 - 2012

A RESOLUTION OF THE BARROW CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO EXPEDIENTLY PASS SENATE BILL 130 – AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE & ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Senator Donald C. Olson has introduced Senate Bill 130 in the State of Alaska Senate, an act establishing the Alaska Native Language Preservation Council and relating to the preservation, restoration and revitalization of all Alaska Native languages; and

WHEREAS, the varied Alaska Native Languages and the rich culture and traditions associated with them established the foundation on which the State of Alaska was built; and

WHEREAS, all Alaska Native Languages are threatened by extinction, including our own Inupiaq language; and

WHEREAS, for the past thirty years, the City of Barrow Mayor, Bob Harcharek, has been actively involved in researching and documenting trends and patterns of migration, the economies, language developments and educational opportunities of the residents of the North Slope Borough; and

WHEREAS, the *North Slope Borough 2011 Economic Profile and Census Report* documents the serious decline in Inupiaq competency among North Slope Borough residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Barrow is committed to assisting any and all entities whose focus is the preservation and revitalization of the Alaska Native languages and cultures; and

WHEREAS, working and interacting with researchers and colleagues throughout the State, such as UAA Professor Emeritus Carl E. Shepro, the critical status of Alaska's Native languages has become an imperative which needs to be addressed as expediently and comprehensively as possible; and

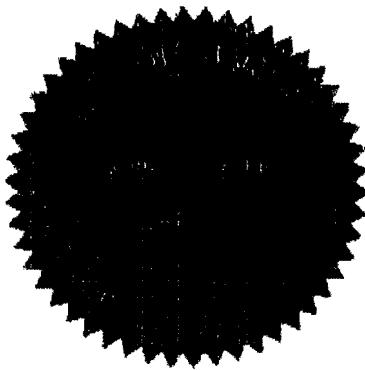
WHEREAS, the indigenous languages of our state are critical and priceless components of the heritage of our State of Alaska, which need to be nurtured to insure their preservation; and

WHEREAS, the intent of Senate Bill 130 is to preserve and maintain our Alaska Native languages which are the most critical components of cultural preservation, continuity and revitalization; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Barrow City Council formally endorses and encourages the Alaska State Legislature to expediently pass Senate Bill 130 into law.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BARROW CITY COUNCIL ON THIS 26th DAY OF JANUARY 2012 UNANIMOUSLY.

ATTEST:



Bob Harcharek

Bob Harcharek, Mayor

Tracy Benson

Tracy Benson, City Clerk