Executive Council of the Central Council  
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA  

Resolution EC 20-12  

Title: Declaration of a State of Emergency Related to COVID-19 Pandemic  

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 31,000 citizens; and  

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and  

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and  

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida convenes its annual Tribal Assembly on the third Wednesday in April, unless for a particular year Tlingit & Haida designates another day for the commencement of the Tribal Assembly; and  

WHEREAS, under Article VII(1)(o) of the Constitution, Tlingit & Haida has the authority to enact resolutions, regulations, and statutes to safeguard and promote the peace, health, safety and general welfare of the Tribe in conformance with applicable tribal or federal law;  

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) recently declared the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) a pandemic, as the rates of infection continue to rise in many locations around the world and across the United States; and  

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and has not yet been adequately contained and it is believed that COVID-19 is most often spread from close person-to-person contact and is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread; and  

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the U.S. President issued a proclamation declaring a national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak; and  

WHEREAS, the U.S. President’s emergency declaration triggered the Stafford Act which allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) to take specific actions to support the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) in providing certain specific types of assistance to states and Indian Tribes including providing federal financial assistance from the President’s Disaster Relief Fund; and  

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has identified the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as “high”, and
has advised that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 will continue to occur globally and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has issued guidelines, which in recent days have been revised and amended a number of times, that encourage individuals to limit person-to-person contact, practice social distancing, and directing older individuals, those with severe underlying medical conditions, and those with symptoms of respiratory illness, to practice self-isolation; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Council has been taking proactive measures to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, employees, and the general public, including temporarily closing offices to the public and enterprises, and implementing various protective mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Council finds that it is necessary and in the best interest of Tlingit & Haida to formally declare a State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to coordinate an effective and timely response to the ongoing emergency and to take advantage of the federal and state resources being made available to Indian Tribes pursuant to the Stafford Act and other sources of existing or future authority; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Council finds that it is in the best interest of Tlingit & Haida to negotiate and enter into mutual aid agreements, memorandums of understanding, or cooperative agreements, with federal, state and local governments, or other entities to provide assistance and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Council finds that it is in the best interest of Tlingit & Haida to seek federal and state resources and negotiate and enter into the necessary agreements with federal and state authorities to make such funding available to the Tlingit & Haida for preparedness, response, post-response, and loss mitigation activities undertaken by Tlingit & Haida related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council hereby declares a State of Emergency for and on behalf of Tlingit & Haida and its communities, related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Council activates a Tlingit & Haida emergency response plan and directs the assets and personnel of Tlingit & Haida in such a manner as to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tlingit & Haida, its citizens, employees, and neighboring general public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Council authorizes the Tlingit & Haida President to execute any mutual aid agreements, memorandums of understanding, or cooperative agreements with federal, state or local governments or other entities to provide assistance to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FUTURE AND FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Executive Council shall seek federal and state resource assistance and authorizes the Tlingit & Haida President to negotiate and enter into the necessary agreements with the federal and state governments to make such funding available to Tlingit & Haida for preparedness, prevention, response, and post-response activities and claims.
ADOPTED this 24 day of March 2020, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 0 absence(s).

CERTIFY

[Signature]

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

[Signature]

Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe