



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Office of the Governor

COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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RESOLUTION 2024-05

Encouraging the Creation of an Access and Functional Needs Coordinator Position within the State Emergency Operations Center

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights is the State of Alaska's civil rights enforcement agency; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights enforces the Alaska Human Rights Act, AS 18.80 *et seq.*; and,

WHEREAS, AS 18.80.225(3) makes it unlawful for the state or any of its political subdivisions, "to refuse or deny to a person any local, state, or federal funds, services, goods, facilities, advantages, or privileges because of physical or mental disability;" and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control estimates that more than 110,000 adults in Alaska live with a disability; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs oversees the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), which is tasked with gathering, processing, and reporting emergency situation intelligence to aid state policy and decision making; supporting local communities as they direct and control disaster emergency response operations; and accounting for the state's response support costs; and,

WHEREAS, the SEOC, while considering the advice of a Disability Advisory Group, does not currently have a coordinator dedicated to ensuring that the Access and Functional Needs of Alaskans are met during an emergency response; and,

WHEREAS, in an emergency response operation it is imperative for the state to act quickly and decisively without delays from excessive consultations; and,

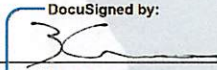
WHEREAS, New Jersey, Washington, North Carolina, Colorado, and other states have recently created dedicated Access and Function Needs coordinators within their state equivalents of the SEOC.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights calls on the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs to create and the Alaska Legislature to fund the position of Access and Functional Needs Coordinator within the State Emergency Operations Center. This coordinator would serve as a singular voice to ensure that emergency communications, transportation, and shelters are as accessible as possible to all Alaskans, regardless of ability. If the creation of this position is infeasible, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights encourages the State Emergency Operations Center to formally entrust the proposed position's duties to an existing coordinator.

Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Alaska Legislature, and the Governor.

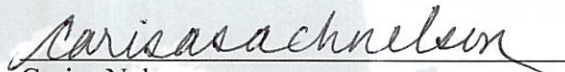
ADOPTED in Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of October 2024.

DocuSigned by:



Zackary Gottshall
Chairperson
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution 2024-05 is a true and accurate copy of the language adopted by the Commission on October 10, 2024.



Carisa Nelson
Commission Secretary
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights