

1 By: Aaron Lojewski
2 Jimi Cash
3 Frank Tomaszewski
4 Introduced: 07/23/2020
5 Adopted: 07/23/2020
6

7 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

8
9 RESOLUTION NO. 2020 – 31

10
11 A RESOLUTION OFFERING TO PRESERVE AND DISPLAY BUS 142, THE "MAGIC BUS,"
12 IN FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

13
14 WHEREAS, Interior Alaska is a renowned national and international visitor
15 destination; and

16
17 WHEREAS, The model year 1946 International Harvester K-5 former
18 Fairbanks City Transit Bus 142 also known as just the "Bus," the "Magic Bus," or as the
19 "Into the Wild Bus" was used for construction worker housing for those who were
20 upgrading The Stampede Trail to better transport antimony ore from Kantishna to Lignite,
21 near present-day Healy, prior to its abandonment on the trail in the 1970s; and

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23 WHEREAS, In 1992 Christopher McCandless adventured into the Alaska
24 wilderness west of Healy and was later found deceased in The Magic Bus; and

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26 WHEREAS, The Magic Bus gained attention after an article was published
27 in 1993 and further attention with the publishing of the 1996 book Into The Wild and
28 later a film version of the book in 2007 about Mr. McCandless's tragic and ill-fated
29 adventure; and

30
31 WHEREAS, The Magic Bus has gained a significant following and in recent
32 years on two occasions adventure seekers looking to retrace McCandless's path tragically
33 died while crossing remote rivers between the Bus and the road system and search and
34 rescue has been called to save adventurers traveling to and from the Bus on many other
35 occasions; and

36
37 WHEREAS, On June 18th, 2020 the Alaska Army National Guard airlifted
38 Bus 142 off the historic Stampede Trail and brought it to the road system; and

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40 WHEREAS, The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is currently
41 keeping the bus safe while "considering options for its long-term future in Alaska;" and


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43 WHEREAS, Bus 142 is of significant historic value to interior Alaska and
44 should be used for the public benefit.

45 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks
46 North Star Borough thanks the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska
47 Army National Guard for their cooperation and conversion of Bus 142 from a public hazard
48 into a valuable public artifact with a bright future; and
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50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star
51 Borough urges the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to consider transferring Bus
52 142 to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Department of Parks & Recreation; and
53

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event of such a transfer that the
55 Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough is committed to retuning Bus 142 to its
56 original home, in the City of Fairbanks, for public display and preservation for current and
57 future visitors and Alaskans alike.
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59 ADOPTED THE 23RD DAY OF JULY 2020.
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63 
64 Christopher Quist
65 Presiding Officer

66 ATTEST:

67 
68 April Trickey, CMC
69 Borough Clerk
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71
72 Yeses: Lojewski, Sanford, Cash, Williams, Tomaszewski, Lyke, O'Neill, Quist
73 Noes: None
74 Other: Cooper (Excused)