

1 By: Bryce J. Ward
2 Aaron Lojewski
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6 Frank Tomaszewski
7 Introduced: 02/11/2021
8 Adopted: 02/11/2021
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10 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

11 RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 02

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14 A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL
15 AIRPORT AS AN UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM HUB
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17 WHEREAS, The Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) and Alaska in
18 general rely heavily on air transportation due to its geographic isolation from the other
19 49 states of the United States of America and remoteness from many nations other than
20 Canada, as well as limited availability of other sources of transportation due to climate;
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, The Borough Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
24 (CEDS) recognizes the Borough as a transportation hub for Central Alaska with significant
25 air, rail, and road facilities, and encourages the support of the design, construction, and
26 maintenance of trail, road, rail, and air transportation systems that improve access to the
27 region; and
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29 WHEREAS, International and domestic air cargo is one of the main
30 components of air transportation’s role in the Borough economy; and
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32 WHEREAS, The Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) serves as a hub for
33 many communities in Interior and Northern Alaska; and
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35 WHEREAS, Mail is delivered to many in rural and remote communities via
36 planes departing from and returning to FAI; and
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38 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the criticality of
39 passenger and cargo air service to rural Alaska, where more than 80% of the State’s
40 communities are only accessed by air; and
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42 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for unmanned
43 aircraft cargo delivery to ensure public health by removing the risk of possible community
44 exposure and infection by community visitors; and

45 WHEREAS, FAI is strategically located for delivery of unmanned aircraft
46 cargo to remote communities across Alaska and has the facilities and capabilities required
47 to adequately serve as a cargo hub; and
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49 WHEREAS, Alaskan based air carriers are collaborating with the University
50 of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) to advanced existing air carrier capabilities; and
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52 WHEREAS, The Alaska Center for Unmanned Systems Integration at UAF is
53 a globally recognized center of excellence and integration for research and testing of
54 unmanned aircraft; and
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56 WHEREAS, UAF leads one of seven Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
57 Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Test Sites, leads one of the eight FAA BEYOND sites,
58 and is one of fifteen core universities comprising the FAA's Air Transportation Center of
59 Excellence for UAS, and is the only organization participating in all three programs.
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61 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks
62 North Star Borough emphatically supports University of Alaska Fairbanks and the State
63 of Alaska's efforts to establish Fairbanks International Airport as an unmanned aircraft
64 system hub.
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66 ADOPTED THE 11TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021.
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71 Mindy O'Neall
72 Presiding Officer

73 ATTEST:

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76 April Trickey, CMC
77 Borough Clerk
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79
80 Yeses: Wilson, Lyke, Tomaszewski, Sanford, Cash, Williams, Lojewski, O'Neall
81 Noes: None
82 Other: Cooper (Abstained)