

**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 32-2024**

**A RESOLUTION WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING
FOR A CONTRACT WITH CORNELL UNIVERSITY
TO PROVIDE ACOUSTICAL SUPPORT OF THE 2025
BOWHEAD WHALE CENSUS**

WHEREAS, the North Slope Borough (Borough) works in collaboration with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission to provide bowhead whale census information; and

WHEREAS, bowhead whale census information is a requirement of quota renewal by the International Whaling Commission; and

WHEREAS, acoustic data is necessary to correct the count for whales outside of visual range and is needed to ensure that the estimate is precise enough for acceptance by the International Whaling Commission; and

WHEREAS, the recording of bowhead whale vocalizations requires advanced mobilization and deployment of underwater recording units; and

WHEREAS, deployment of the underwater recording units must occur many months in advance due to sea ice coverage in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas; and

WHEREAS, Cornell University has the necessary training and experience to deploy said underwater recording units, and recover them at the completion of acoustic data collection; and

WHEREAS, Cornell University has the knowledge and ability to collect and analyze the approximately 48 Terabytes of acoustic data; and

WHEREAS, because the Borough has determined that no other entity can provide the acoustic data collection and analysis that meets the specific requirements and needs of the NSB Department of Wildlife Management and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, it is in the Borough's best interest to waive competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, entering into a Professional Agreement with Cornell University to provide acoustical support of the 2025 Bowhead Whale Census will cost approximately \$514,601.00 and exceeds the Mayor's authority to sign; and

WHEREAS, NSBMC § 2.36.180(A)(1)(d) and (A)(2) allow the Mayor to waive competitive bidding for procurement of professional services in excess of \$300,000 with Assembly approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The North Slope Borough Assembly authorizes the Mayor to negotiate and execute a new contract with Cornell University for the deployment of acoustic underwater recording units, the collection of bowhead whale vocalizations, and the analysis of acoustic data collection, in a total amount not-to-exceed \$514,601.00.

INTRODUCED: _____
ADOPTED: _____

Crawford A. Patkotak, President
Date: _____

ATTEST:

Sheila Burke, Borough Clerk
Date: _____

Josiah A. Patkotak, Mayor
Date: _____