

Sponsored by: Valdatta/Lorenz

**CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2005-66**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA RECOGNIZING THE PRESERVATION OF THE JESSE LEE HOME AS A CITY PRIORITY AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SUPPORT THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND DIRECTING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TO MAKE THE RESTORATION OF THE JESSE LEE HOME ITS HIGHEST PRIORITY

WHEREAS, the City of Seward recognizes the Jesse Lee Home as a historical landmark for the State of Alaska and the City of Seward; and

WHEREAS, the Jesse Lee Home was the home of Benny Benson when he designed the Alaska State Flag; and

WHEREAS, the Jesse Lee Home is the place where the first State flag was sewn; and

WHEREAS, the Jesse Lee Home is the place where the State flag was first flown; and

WHEREAS, the Jesse Lee Home is listed on the State Department of Historical and Natural Resources as one of the top ten (10) sites of historical significance; and

WHEREAS, the Jesse Lee Home building represents a distinctive part of Alaska's history; and

WHEREAS, the Jesse Lee Home is in need of restoration in order to salvage the existing structure; and

WHEREAS, the deterioration of the building is to the point that if restoration does not occur soon this resource will be lost forever; and

WHEREAS, the Jesse Lee Home is located in Seward, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seward recognizes that this project is beyond its financial resources to restore the structure; and

WHEREAS, the administration needs the Council's consent to authorize the Seward Historic Preservation Commission to pursue relationships with private, state and federal organizations for the preservation and restoration of the Jesse Lee Home.

**CITY OF SEWARD
RESOLUTION 2005-66**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. The City Council recognizes the Jesse Lee Home as a historical landmark for the State of Alaska and the City of Seward.

Section 2. The City Council recognizes the restoration of the Jesse Lee Home as a City priority.

Section 3. The City Council directs the City Manger or his designee to support the Historic Preservation Commission to develop relationships with private, state and federal organizations to further pursue the preservation and restoration of the Jesse Lee Home.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the city of Seward, Alaska, this 25th day of July, 2005.

THE CITY OF SEWARD, ALASKA



Vanta Shafer, Mayor

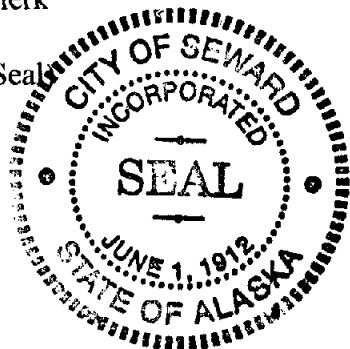
AYES: Branson, Valdatta, Amberg, Lorenz, Shafer
NOES: None
ABSENT: Dunham, Clark
ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Jean Lewis
City Clerk

(City Seal)



COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT

Meeting Date: July 25, 2005

From: Kirsten Vesel, Assistant City Manager

Through: Clark Corbridge, City Manager

Agenda Item: Introduction of Resolution 2005-_____,
RECOGNIZES THE RESTORATION OF THE JESSE LEE HOME
AS A CITY PRIORITY

BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION:

On May 18, 2005 two members of the Historic Preservation Commission attended a meeting in Anchorage of people interested in pursuing the preservation of the Jesse Lee Home. Interested participants include CIRI, Chugach Alaska Corp., JL Properties, Inc., ECI/HYER, Inc., the Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Children's Services, and several other individuals with a vested interest in the preservation of the Historic Jesse Lee Home. The meeting included presentations, discussions and action items. The conclusion was to research creative funding sources, obtain a top priority for the stabilization of the structure and plan for a subsequent meeting in July or August 2005.

On July 8, 2005 Dr. James Simpson, a former resident of the Jesse Lee Home and advocate for the preservation and restoration of this structure, visited Seward and facilitated a meeting including the Historic Preservation Commission and administration. Dr. Simpson's request from the Historic Preservation Commission and administration was to solicit City Council support to continue developing relationships with potential investors for the Jesse Lee Home. Mr. McClanahan is currently writing a book about his childhood experiences growing up in the Jesse Lee Home all of which are positive.

On July 13, 2005 a man by the name of Mr. Pat Reilly visited from Anchorage to assess the condition of the roof for the Jesse Lee Home. He had volunteered to review the facility and provide a report back to both the Rasmuson Foundation and ECI-Hyer Architects.

The next meeting is scheduled in July or August 2005 in Anchorage to report ongoing efforts and solicit additional people interested in the preservation of the Jesse Lee Home. The Historic Preservation Commission and Administration would like to get the City Council's support to attend the next meeting offering Seward's support to develop and engage in relationships to solicit financial support for the restoration of the Jesse Lee Home.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

Yes

No

- 1. Comprehensive Plan
- 2. Strategic Plan
- 3. Other
- 4. Not applicable

X_____

FISCAL NOTE:

This item will not require any significant expenditures from the City's operating or capital budgets.

Approved by Finance Department _____

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council approves Resolution 2005_____ supporting the preservation of the Jesse Lee Home and authorizing the administration and the Historic Preservation Commission to take an active role in efforts to restore the Jesse Lee Home.