

Introduced by: City Manager Williams
Date: May 8, 2018
Action: Does Not Carry
Vote: 3-2

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Resolution #18-11

A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE CAMA-I DANCE FESTIVAL BY WAIVING THE REQUIREMENT TO COLLECT SALES TAXES AT THE EVENT

- WHEREAS**, the Cama-i Dance Festival is a celebration of culture and dance;
- WHEREAS**, more than 20 dance groups and more than 400 dancers, drummers and singers between the ages of 2 and 92 will celebrate the Yup'ik Eskimo tradition of dance;
- WHEREAS**; Cama-i promotes cultural diversity as Alaska Native, Native American and International groups share in the common language of dance;
- WHEREAS**, Cama-i also provides for additional activities during the festival such as a Miss Cama-i contest, native foods dinner for everyone, and arts and crafts sales;
- WHEREAS**, through dance, song and crafts, the traditions of Alaska Native tribes are communicated to hundreds of people during the three-day festival;
- WHEREAS**, the Cama-i dance festival promotes positive activities in the Bethel community and generates positive statewide publicity for the City of Bethel while bringing many visitors to the Bethel community;
- WHEREAS**, the City of Bethel recognizes the significance of the Cama-i Dance Festival and supports the dancers;
- WHEREAS**, Bethel Municipal Code, Section 4.16.180 allows a nonprofit organization to apply for a special sales tax exemption for fundraisers conducted by a nonprofit organization where the funds are raised and used solely and exclusively for a qualified charitable project;
- WHEREAS**, the Cama-i dance festival is sponsored by the Bethel Council of the Arts, a non-profit organization
- WHEREAS**, Cama-i is put on by volunteers from Bethel and the surrounding Region, usually numbering about 500 volunteers annually;
- WHEREAS**, the funds raised during Cama-i are used to simply cover the expenses of putting on the event and bringing the performers to Bethel;

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WHEREAS, the festival is also enjoyed by a number of other nonprofits who work the concession stand as a fundraiser;

WHEREAS, this bringing together of numerous fundraising activities benefits numerous organizations and people of both Bethel and the Region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of Bethel, Alaska, supports the nonprofits of this community in their fundraising efforts and waives the requirement to collect sales taxes on admissions, t-shirt sales and concession sales during the 2018 Cama-i Dance Festival.