



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ERTF STATEMENT ON INCLUSION AND RESPECT AS WE REBUILD OUR ECONOMY AND OPEN OUR STATE

The COVID-19 pandemic is a time of great uncertainty and stress. Around the country, we are witnessing divisiveness and hate as states struggle with the impacts of the virus. One of the more obvious instances of this happened in our state when Alaska Representative Ben Carpenter compared coronavirus screening stickers to the yellow stars of David worn in Nazi Germany. Though Representative Carpenter has since apologized, the lessons learned are instructive. Members of Mayor Ethan Berkowitz's Economic Resiliency Task Force (ERTF) have issued the following statement:

"In the face of uncertainty, challenge, or a cold, hard winter, Alaskans know that we depend on each other to survive and thrive. As members of the Economic Resiliency Task Force, we are focused on emerging from the pandemic stronger together as we build a resilient economy. Though he has since apologized, Representative Carpenter's comments exemplify the fact that there is no place for division in our state as we seek to reopen. Our future depends on each other - not only how we honor the public health measures that will keep us all safe, but how we honor the diversity that strengthens our state. As we rebuild, if we work together as Alaskans, we will emerge stronger."