

TOWN OF ALTA RESOLUTION 2020-R-3

A RESOLUTION HONORING OUR PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS AND THOSE WHO ASSISTED DURING THE UNPRECEDENTED STORM OF FEBRUARY 5-8, 2020 IN LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

WHEREAS, Little Cottonwood Canyon including the Town of Alta experienced sustained snowfall, gusting and sustained winds, and severe avalanche conditions from Wednesday, February 5 through Saturday, February 8, 2020;

WHEREAS, the 41” of snow that fell during this period, 6.79” of snow-water equivalent¹, the longest period of sustained westerly winds in the history of the Alta Ski Area records, and the storm conditions caused numerous avalanches which snapped trees, buried the road numerous times, and hit a residential cabin;

WHEREAS, 48 avalanches occurrences were recorded by Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Avalanche Safety over State Route 210 (SR-210), 21 of which hit SR-210, 15 of which were destructive force 3 or larger avalanches, and 4 natural avalanches crossed the closed highway including at Tanners Gulch, White Pine, and Cottonwood Draw;

WHEREAS, SR-210 which terminates in Alta and which is Alta’s only route of access to the Salt Lake Valley was closed due to avalanche hazard for 54 hours, with approximately 4,850’ of road impacted by avalanche debris as deep as 15’;

WHEREAS, interlodge travel restrictions were enforced for almost 50 hours, the longest such period in recent memory, requiring numerous visitors, residents and staff to stay indoors during this extended period;

WHEREAS, Town of Alta Marshal Mike Morey, Deputy Marshals, Dispatchers, Town of Alta Staff, Utah Department of Transportation Avalanche Forecasters and Mitigation Crews, Alta Ski Lifts Management, Alta Ski Lift Snow Safety Personnel, Alta Ski Lifts and independent snow removal staff, the Lodges, Property Managers, Firefighters and Alta Clinic staff provided a coordinated response and worked together tirelessly over this period to clear the road, support those interlodged, prioritize the health and safety of those in the Town, give updates to the public and respond to the needs of the people in the Town of Alta and the contributions and sacrifices made by those responders;

¹ Measured at the Alta Guard Station by Utah Department of Transportation Avalanche Safety

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council acknowledges the work and sacrifice of the Town of Alta Marshal Mike Morey, Deputy Marshals, Dispatchers, Town of Alta Staff, Utah Department of Transportation Avalanche Forecasters and Mitigation Crews, Alta Ski Lift Snow Safety Personnel, Alta Ski Lifts and independent snow removal staff, the Lodges, Property Managers, Firefighters and Alta Clinic staff who ensured the safety of the guests, workers and residents interlodged in the Town of Alta;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council acknowledges those who responded to the extraordinary event caused by the avalanches which hit and threatened those in the Town and worked tirelessly to clear the roads;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council gratefully honors and thanks those who carried out the critical role of protecting and ensuring public safety during this period.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

Harris Sondak, Mayor

ATTEST:

Piper Lever
Town Clerk