

TOWN OF ALTA RESOLUTION 2021-R-4

A RESOLUTION HONORING OUR PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS AND THOSE WHO ASSISTED DURING THE WINTER STORM OF FEBRUARY 12 - 18, 2021 IN LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

WHEREAS, Little Cottonwood Canyon including the Town of Alta experienced sustained snowfall, gusting and sustained winds, and severe avalanche conditions during several periods between Friday, February 12 through Thursday, February 18, 2021;

WHEREAS, 103” of snow fell during this period, with 6.82” of snow-water equivalent, as measured at the Alta Ski Area Collins Study Plot;

WHEREAS, 157 natural and explosive-triggered avalanche occurrences were recorded in avalanche paths affecting State Route 210 (SR-210 by Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Avalanche Safety, 31 of which impacted SR-210 and 58 of which were classified as Relative Size 3 or larger avalanches, with several very large avalanches occurring in avalanche paths that have not affected SR-210 in recent memory or in recorded history;

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 70 hours, with approximately 1/5 of the 5 mile stretch of SR210 between mile marker 6.5 and 11.5 impacted by avalanche debris as deep as 20 feet;

WHEREAS, avalanche mitigation teams composed of UDOT avalanche forecasters and ski patrollers from Alta Ski Area and Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort worked in conjunction with public safety teams throughout Little Cottonwood Canyon to conduct several avalanche mitigation missions during the period, resulting in a total of 267 individual explosive detonations;

WHEREAS, interlodge travel restrictions were enforced for over 67 hours, 60 of these were consecutive, being 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 Safety and maintenance crews, Alta Ski Area management, Alta Ski Area snow safety personnel, Alta Ski Area 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 and prioritize the health and safety of

individuals present in Alta who were subject to interlodge travel restrictions, provide updates to the public and respond to the needs of people in the Town of Alta;

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 Safety and maintenance crews, Alta Ski Area snow safety personnel, Alta Ski Area and independent snow removal staff, the lodges, property managers, firefighters, and Alta Clinic staff who ensured the safety of the guests, workers and residents subject to interlodge restrictions in the Town of Alta;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council acknowledges those who responded to the extraordinary period of winter weather and elevated avalanche hazard 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 10th DAY OF MARCH, 2021.

Harris Sondak, Mayor

ATTEST:

Piper Lever
Town Clerk