



**CITY OF WASILLA**  
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**RESOLUTION NO. WR97-03**

Requested By: Councilman Carney  
Prepared By: LeRoi Heaven, WKWCHS  
& Ron Rucker, Parks & Rec. Commission

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASILLA EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR FAITHFUL AND CONSCIENTIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE RENDERED TO THE CITIZENS OF WASILLA, THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH, AND THE CAUSE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN ALASKA BY JOHN P. COOPER III, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF WASILLA DEPARTMENT OF MUSEUM AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM OF ALASKA TRANSPORTATION AND INDUSTRY.

WHEREAS, during the period of 1984 through 1986 as the Director of the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry Mr. John P. Cooper III is recognized as the person who saw the museum development potential within Wasilla, originated the museum move concept, carried out the research, the planning, the initial fund raising, initial organization, and site development in the successful effort to move that museum to the Wasilla area; and

WHEREAS, a plan of community cooperation worked out between Mr. Cooper and the City of Wasilla Administration (Charlie Bumpus, John Stein and Cecil Blanton) to establish both the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry and the new City of Wasilla Airport at the preferred Jacobsen Lake Site was accepted by the City of Wasilla within Resolution No. 85-F-1, on September 9, 1985; and

WHEREAS, in 1992 in order to give long term stability to local history preservation, local history education, and to promote tourism Mr. Cooper, as the Executive Director of the Wasilla-Knik-Willow Creek Historical Society, conscientiously worked with the Historical Society Board, Mayor John Stein, and the Wasilla City Council to successfully complete the ongoing merger of Historical Society and City interests, properties, staff, and activities to create the City of Wasilla Museum Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, under Administration and City Council direction, Mr. Cooper planned, organized, and as part of the work crew helped to build a badly needed Museum and Visitor Center addition that was completed under budget; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, with Administration and City Council support, Mr. Cooper initiated and coordinated the first successful effort to acquire additional parking space for the Historic Town Site Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mr. Cooper put the concept into practice and helped the Wasilla-Knik-Willow Creek Historical Society to establish the volunteer operated and increasingly successful Wasilla Farmers Market; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 and 1996, in the interests of operational efficiency and productivity and at the direction of City Council and Mayor John Stein, Mr. Cooper, began the involved planning process that resulted in the successful formation of the new City of Wasilla Department of Museum and Recreational Services and subsequent successful program improvements; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 and 1996, in addition to his other duties and at the direction of Mayor John Stein and the Wasilla City Council, Mr. Cooper evaluated and expedited badly needed restoration and repairs of the historic Alaska Railroad Depot to the point that its deterioration was halted, basic improvements made, project costs were under budget, the Depot is now a much sought after community asset; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, with the support of Mayor John Stein and the Wasilla City council, Mr. Cooper successfully initiated the first of three formal evaluation steps for national accreditation of the museum operations by the American Association of Museums, and process that is intended to evaluate and certify professional practices which in turn is intended to aid in the success of grant writing and other fund raising activities; and


WHEREAS, over the years Mr. Cooper has consistently given whatever time a job required to do it right, has made many facilities and program improvements for the agencies employing him, and has been active, but inconspicuous, in his community volunteerism to help the Historical Society's Teelands Store restoration, helping with special events, the Knik Museum, the Museum of Alaska Transportation and Industry, and other community efforts such as Arbor Days, the Wasilla Wonderland Playground project, and the Skateboard Track;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

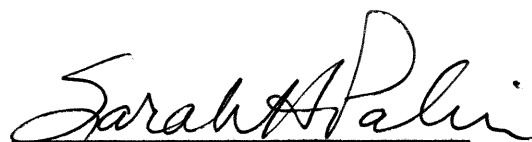
That the Wasilla City Council wishes to publicly express sincere appreciation for John P. Cooper, III for his productive community commitment and his faithful and professional service while in the City's employ.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1997.

ATTEST:

  
MARJORIE D. HARRIS, CMC  
City Clerk

(SEAL)

  
SARAH H. PALIN, Mayor