

Introduced by: Tunseth, Mayor  
Date: 05/19/26  
Action: Adopted  
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
COMMENDING RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ATHLETES  
OF THE 2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES**

**WHEREAS,** the Arctic Winter Games is a high-profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and arctic athletes ages 11 to 18, founded in 1969 by Governor Walter J. Hickel of Alaska, Northwest Territories Commissioner Stuart M. Hodgson, and Yukon Commissioner James Smith; and

**WHEREAS,** per the Arctic Winter Games mission statement, the Arctic Winter Games provide an opportunity to strengthen sport development in the participants' jurisdictions; to promote the benefits of sport; to build partnerships; to promote culture and values; to celebrate sport, social exchange, and cultures; and to provide an opportunity for the developing athlete to compete in friendly competition while sharing cultural values from northern regions around the world; and

**WHEREAS,** the Arctic Winter Games features 20 thrilling sports that bring athletes together to compete in a celebration of skill, strength, and northern spirit; and

**WHEREAS,** Alaskan athletes have participated in the Arctic Winter Games at every event since its inception; and

**WHEREAS,** Team Alaska won the most metals of all the teams, 227 total: 78 gold, 73 silver and 76 bronze; and

**WHEREAS,** twenty-one athletes from six communities – Homer, Kenai, Nikiski, Seward, Soldotna, Sterling – represented the Kenai Peninsula Borough as part of Team Alaska at the 2026 Arctic Winter Games hosted by the City of Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, March 8-15; and

**WHEREAS,** special recognition is due these athletes and their coaches who represented their home communities with enthusiasm, hard work, talent, team spirit, commitment, collaboration, and the joy of sport; and

**WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough wishes to honor and congratulate these athletes and their coaches and commend them for their personal successes and team contributions: Athletes: Reilly Baker, Jaelynn Kennon, Swift Blackstock, Vivien Sarber, Elijah Gordon, Phoebe Lang, Asher Stephens, Wolf Trejo, Lilliana Harris, Yousef El Daly, Janaya Gao, Molly Evans, Mason Vermette, Easton Frost, Michael McCarthy, Rieko Kent Morera, Abigail Semaken, Coleman LeClair, Ollie Dahl,

Michael Davidson, Aliyah Adams, Luke Baumer, Judah Eason, Lily Schablein, Keenan Long, Infinity-Ann Asiata-Higa, Rachael Shannon, Staxx Van Kirk; Coaches: Heidi Herzog, Mark Gordon, Candice Parker, Yvonne Flynn, David Loring and Rachael Nelson; Mission Staff: Adele Villa; and President Emeritus Tim Dillon;

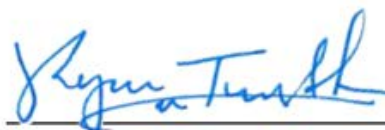
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough commends the athletes of the 2026 Arctic Winter Games for their accomplishments.

**SECTION 2.** That a special Certificate of Achievement shall be presented to each member of the team and a copy of this Commending Resolution to each coach, mission staff and the President Emeritus.

**SECTION 3.** This resolution becomes effective immediately.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 19TH DAY OF MAY, 2026.**



Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Michele Turner, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth  
No: None  
Absent: Griebel