

Introduced by: Johnson, Cox, Cooper,
Ecklund, Mayor
Date: 10/08/24
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2024-043**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA TO MAINTAIN FUNDING
FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ASSISTANCE GRANTS AND THE STATEWIDE
LIBRARY ELECTRONIC DOORWAY AT FY 2024 LEVELS**

WHEREAS, Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grants of between \$6,000-\$7,000 in annual funding have supported all the libraries in the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB), and have done so for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) has provided Alaskans with access to online resources that would otherwise be unaffordable for their local libraries; and.

WHEREAS, the budget for the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums reduced all PLA grants to \$1,829 before reversing those cuts; and

WHEREAS, SLED funding has been reduced from \$500,000 to \$369,514; and

WHEREAS, the original budget reduction to the PLA grants is so severe that it threatened to close some libraries in the KPB; and

WHEREAS, the reduced PLA grant would only be sufficient to support the Anchor Point Public Library for one month; and

WHEREAS, the reduced PLA grant would force Ninilchik Public Library to close during winter; and

WHEREAS, the Seldovia Library would have to reduce hours as well as decrease material purchases; and

WHEREAS, loss of SLED funding will eliminate many online resources for all Alaska public libraries;

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

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough urges the State of Alaska to maintain funding for the Public Library Assistance grants and the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway at no less than Fiscal Year 2024 levels.

SECTION 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 8TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2024.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson
No: None
Absent: None