

**To: Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly**

**From: Samantha Cunningham, MICP  
EMS Coordinator, Kenai Peninsula Subarea; Southern Region Emergency Medical Services**

**Date: May 16, 2017**

**Re: KPB Ordinance 2017-09: Creation of "Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Services Area / EPHESA.**

As the Assembly knows, there are great challenges in Alaska for providing timely Emergency Medical Services in rural or remote areas of our State. On the Kenai Peninsula, this includes areas of the highway corridors that we all travel frequently to and from Anchorage, including the highway corridors clearly represented by the Borough maps developed for this ordinance, roughly including Cooper Landing, through the Pass, and parts of the Moose Pass area on the eastern Kenai Peninsula.

Much of the road passes through State Parks or Federal land, thus making a taxable service area a virtually insurmountable task. Over the past 25 years this has been an identified problem. EMS Subarea Coordinators have worked hard to support small volunteer EMS and fire services that have minimal funding to keep their doors open, provide training, recruitment, and technical support.

Documentation of the challenges goes back to the 1980's. In 1985, Southern Region EMS Council contracted with DANN and Associates who provided the DANN report "Emergency Medical Services Assessment, Kenai Peninsula Borough, 1985. This report documents many of the same problems faced today providing coverage along these highway corridors. A copy of this report is on file with the Borough.

From a personal point of view, I also drive this stretch of road and have worked accident scenes to work to save lives after terrible motor vehicle accidents. The wait time for help, especially in winter, can be much longer than any of us would wish. There are simply not enough souls living in the area to draw from for a fully-staffed, volunteer, 24 hour EMS service without terrible strain on volunteers themselves.

Given all these issues, I support the concept of Borough Ordinance 2017-09. This will enable you to be prepared to address HB 148 should it pass this Legislative Session. I feel that the ongoing struggle in the area in the proposed Ordinance warrants further evaluation and scrutiny from all stakeholders involved, including the communities and Emergency Services agencies along the proposed highway corridor.

Passage of Ordinance 2017-09 will enable the Borough to move forward as quickly as possible if HB-148 passes, and provide a process for input from all involved.

Thank you,

Samantha Cunningham  
PO Box 1907  
40807 Kay Ct  
Homer, AK 99603