

Agenda Item: M.4
Committee: Policies and Procedures
Page Number: 148

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
Ordinance 2016-22

1. ENCELEWSKI, IvanNinilchik
2. SELF, Shelley L.....Ninilchik
3. OSTROM, Peggy Homer
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5. NOFZIGER, Ruby..... Homer
6. WISE, Pat Homer
7. WESTPHAL, Douglas.....Ninilchik
8. HAZELWOOD, Glendaunknown
9. SEMPLE, LisaNinilchik
10. RUFHOLM, Donna Homer
11. KOSKOVICH, Richard and Ann Homer
12. MILLER, Shevawn Homer
13. Hutchison, Christine.....unknown
14. STROOZAS, Tom..... Homer

15. FORQUER, Shirley Homer
16. CHONG, Al and Bunny..... Soldotna
17. BROTT, Janet.....unknown
18. BURKE, TobyKenai
19. BUCHSTEINER, Caitlin Homer
20. ZUYUS, Peter..... Homer
21. MIOTKE, Amanda.....unknown
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23. NORTHROP, Karen Homer
24. DAHLHAMER, Blynnunknown
25. KNAPP, Edson Homer
26. DITTON, Robert and Charlene..... Homer
27. BELL, William Homer
28. SMITH, SharonAnchor Point
29. ODD, Joann Clam Gulch
30. ODD, Holly Clam Gulch
31. GOEHRINGER, Jan & Bob Homer

Subject: FW: Comment Ordinance 2016-22
Attachments: IE Letter to KPB Oppose Ordinance 2016-22.pdf; ATT00001.htm

From: <masteryoda@alaska.net>
Date: July 20, 2016 at 3:35:02 PM AKDT
To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>
Subject: **Comment Ordinance 2016-22**

Dear Assembly Clerk,

Attached please find my comments in opposition of the proposed Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2016-22. Please enter for the record. Thank You.

Ivan Z. Encelewski

Ivan Z. Encelewski

P.O. Box 39773
Ninilchik, AK 99639
(907) 567-3287

July 20, 2016

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 N Binkley St.
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Honorable Assembly Members:

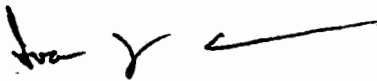
My name is Ivan Z. Encelewski and I am a lifelong resident of the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB). My permanent residence is approximately eight miles north of Ninilchik. I am intimately familiar with the Ninilchik Community, both on a personal and professional level. Specifically, I wish to bring to your attention my vehement opposition to Ordinance 2016-22. This ordinance would affect the common boundary line for the South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) and Central Peninsula Hospital (CPH) service areas. In addition, I now understand the proponent of this ordinance has signaled on multiple occasions a desire to further amend the common boundary.

As someone in the community that relies on the Ninilchik Traditional Council Community Clinic (NTCCC) for my primary medical care I do not want to see an amendment to the current service area. My concern is that moving the common boundary could potentially affect the vital aspects of my direct medical care by losing services at the NTCCC. The NTCCC relies on the SPH to provide a partnership for doctors, lab services, x-rays and ultrasounds. As part of this relationship between NTCCC and SPH, we now have access to Dr. Spencer. She is an absolute blessing to the community. Any potential loss of her services would be catastrophic to my family and to our people who have developed a vital bond. Regardless of the boundary change and if it were to keep the NTCCC in the SPH service area, it would directly correlate to a negative monetary impact on the SPH, thus potentially adversely impacting our community as a whole.

I am also concerned that the apparent approach of implementing this ordinance is one in which it keeps changing with regard to the ultimate boundary line. This shooting from the hip so to speak epitomizes the definition of arbitrary and capricious. It is certainly understandable that even some of my neighbors have provided comment or testimony in support of this ordinance. Some of them do generally utilize the CPH, while others like me use SPH. I can certainly understand those who may be motivated by which hospital they generally use, coupled with the potential for monetary savings, however, creating a further divide with SPH and CPH against one another is not productive. As an example, I have only used the SPH and the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage for surgeries in the past 20 plus years. Family members of mine who live just north of the Ninilchik River have also utilized the SPH for urgent care needs, including surgery.

I believe that this matter should be dealt with in a cautioned approach, where all residents fully understand the impacts, and one that provides for cohesiveness not divisiveness. I also recommend consideration in the future of a more unified vision by entertaining a mill rate which doesn't have varying rates for SPH and CPH. An ordinance whereby all residents pay alike and neither hospital gains or loses is much more palatable, not one in which an arbitrary boundary has the effect of splitting Ninilchik in half. Thank you very much for your consideration of my comments on behalf of myself and my family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivan Z. Encelewski', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ivan Z. Encelewski

Subject: FW: Ordinance 2016-22
Attachments: Ordinance 2016-22 Letter of Opposition SS.pdf; ATT00001.htm

From: Shelley Self <4s.self@gmail.com>

Date: July 20, 2016 at 1:21:24 PM AKDT

To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance.2016-22

Attention Assembly Clerk,

Please find my attached letter for a public comment for Ordinance 2016-22.

If you have questions please respond or call me at 907-252-5072.

Thank you.

Shelley L. Self

Shelley L. Self
PO BOX 39721
Ninilchik, AK 99639

July 20, 2016

To the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
Re: Ordinance 2016-22

My name is Shelley Self, resident of Ninilchik, AK and a concerned Kenai Peninsula Borough citizen.

I would like to voice my opposition the proposed Ordinance 2016-22 that would change the service area for Central Peninsula General Hospital. I've been following the scattered approach of this proposal and need to voice my concern.

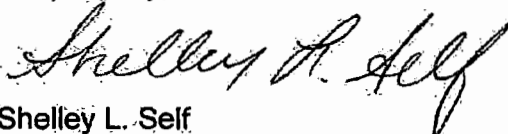
My husband and I have lived in Alaska for 20+ years and seven miles south of Ninilchik has been our home all of these years. We have built our home and raised our children here. All three children continue to live in Ninilchik and have their own residences.

Since we moved here, my family has received primary care at the Ninilchik Clinic as well as benefiting services from both South Peninsula and Central Peninsula Hospitals. Visits to Anchorage Doctors have been necessary also.

We have seen many changes throughout the years here at the Ninilchik clinic. At first the clinic was primarily for Indian Health Services, however it expanded its services to the general public. This was an amazing benefit to our family, as driving to Homer or Soldotna during the winter or busy summer months proved to be time consuming and costly. The medical providers that have been available at the Ninilchik clinic have mainly been Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants until a few years ago when the clinic brought on Medical Doctors. Dr. Spencer and Dr. Downey have been absolutely awesome. Without going into personal health challenges that my husband and I experience, I will just say that by having the Medical Doctors at our local clinic has saved us, not only time and money from going to Anchorage, but peace of mind. The many services that the Ninilchik Clinic provide have been expanded and improved throughout the years because of their relations in business with South Peninsula Hospital. If adopted, this proposal would cause a loss of funding to South Peninsula Hospital which in turn would affect the Ninilchik Clinic and my family members directly.

This is why I sincerely hope that Ordinance 2016-22 is not adopted.

Respectfully,



Shelley L. Self

Subject:

FW: Ordinance 2016-22

From: Peggy Ostrom <peggy.ostrom@gmail.com>

Date: July 18, 2016 at 9:48:05 PM AKDT

To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance 2016-22

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly is considering a change to the northern boundary line of the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area. I am opposed to Ordinance 2016-22.

Any change to the boundary line that decreases the size of our service area will negatively affect our organization. Depending on where the line is moved to, the impact to our hospital could be a negative \$200,000 to \$500,000.

We rely on those funds to purchase new, modern equipment. You are taking away one of the things that makes this community a great place to live.

A decline in equipment leads to a decline in providers, a decline in population, and a decline in the quality of life.

In addition to the negative impact, this is happening without allowing the people it negatively affects even being allowed to have a voice on the decision which actually harms us.

As a resident in the southern peninsula, I don't even get to vote on this decision which harms me.

South Peninsula Hospital is a top-100 critical access hospital, and I do not want to see the quality of care decline. Do not change the north boundary of our hospital service area.

Vote NO on this Ordinance 2016-22.

Thank you.

Peggy A Ostrom

64284 Bridger Road
Homer, AK 99603

Subject:

FW: Ordinance 2016-22

From: Rieta <rietaw@alaska.net>

Date: July 19, 2016 at 11:06:04 AM AKDT

To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance 2016-22

Subject: Ordinance 2016-22

To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to Ordinance 2016-22.

Please do not change the boundary line of South Peninsula Hospital's (SPH) service area as this would reduce revenue and thus services.

In 1963 when I came to Homer it was OK with me to have a 6-bed hospital and one doctor. In 1996 when my 88-year-old mother came to live with me, I was thankful for the greatly expanded services available through SPH. A round trip to Soldotna for the services she eventually needed before dying at age 99 would have been exhausting for her. There is a large elderly population in this area; please keep them in mind.

My husband and I have both had surgeries at SPH, and very recently our daughter was given a diagnosis of breast cancer without having to travel elsewhere. It is expensive to travel for medical tests or care; such a trip to Anchorage recently cost my husband and me over \$500 out of pocket.

Sincerely,

Rieta M. Walker
57060 E End Road
Homer AK 99603

Subject:

FW: Ordinance 2016-22

From: Ruby Nofziger <rknofziger@gmail.com>

Date: July 19, 2016 at 2:54:30 PM AKDT

To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance 2016-22

To Whom IT May Concern:

I understand that there is a suggestion to decrease the size of the service area of the South Peninsula Hospital. This would decrease the funds for our hospital and take away needed funds from us. We moved to Homer partly because it had a hospital that could take care of our needs in our older years. We need to have that staff and equipment that we have here to take care of our increasingly older population in Homer and the surrounding area. We understand that we do not have a vote in this and writing is the only way that you will know that we are opposed to decreasing the boundary line. I hope that you will consider our needs in South Peninsula and choose not to decrease the boundary line.

Ruby Nofziger
Box 2223
Homer, Ak
99603

Subject: FW: Assembly thoughts on service area

From: <ppwise@alaska.net>
Date: July 19, 2016 at 10:45:12 AM AKDT
To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>
Subject: Fwd: Assembly thoughts on service area

----- Forwarded message from ppwise@alaska.net -----

Date: Mon, 18 Jul 2016 11:20:39 -0800
From: ppwise@alaska.net
Reply-To: ppwise@alaska.net
Subject: Assembly thoughts on service area
To: wdunne@kpb.us, kellycooper@kpb.us

Pat Wise
PO Box 2772
Homer, Alaska 99603

I appreciate your time on the Assembly and know that you speak for Homer. I have been a resident of Homer in 1972 through most of 1983 when I moved to Fairbanks. I have returned to Homer since 2004 - recent residency is 2004-2016. I have volunteered at the hospital in Homer in 1972 (when the Anchorage doctors would come here for surgery day and volunteers from the community would wash the surgery sheets and blankets after each surgery and do the dishes (no automatic dishwasher) for the staff and patients. We were taught to take blood pressures and generally keep an eye on patients during their stay. Our hospital **grew from 2 beds to a few more beds and one crib to 9 beds and finally to today's special rooms and additions.** We have update equipment and the best friendly caring atmosphere in our outreach. I am a member of the hospital auxiliary.

I am concerned about the Assembly decisions! **Every new month there is something about our hospital!** The one I am concerned about right now is Ordinance 2016-22 - **service area boundary lines.** I am totally against your plans as an Assembly making a decision about the line change. Our own Homer people cannot even vote!!

Our hospital serves Anchor Point. **Anchor Point is listed as the most poverished White community (non native) in Alaska!!** Our hospital will take care of anyone who enters its doors! This counts in today's world when we think of money and me instead of serving our people with dignity and care no matter our sacrifice. Poorer economical areas have more people without the funds to pay hospital bills. they want to pay. They want their loved ones taken care of. Some try to pay in dribbles; a few dollars every month. They are not on commercial plans or with money in their pockets. As a Homer member, please consider this! It has taken years, but we now have a staff of doctors to meet almost every need including those doctors who serve in emergency room. We have excellent equipment! We are concerned for Ninilchik and have helped its dispensary and clinic there.

To move the boundary lines will mean loss of staff, services, and huge debts because of the loss from \$200,000 to \$500,000 dollars a year. Fight for us, please.

SPH is depending on both of you most of all. This is not only a money issue, but an outreach of love. Which shall be the top priority? My son, Dr. Matthew Wise, M.D., worked emergency room week after week after week because we had fewer doctors when he worked here in Homer. He assisted in surgery. And then SPH grew some more. Now we have a troop of doctors who love being in Homer. Be thankful that you do not have to fly to Soldotna or to Anchorage everytime you need surgery or follow up. You can be surrounded by your family and friends instead of hoping they will come to visit you in faraway places.

Thank you very much for considering this.

Pat Wise
PO Box 2772
Homer, Alaska 99603
Contact if necessary via email above

----- End forwarded message -----

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>**Date:** July 21, 2016 at 11:09:20 AM AKDT**To:** <assembly@kpb.us>**Cc:** <jblankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Reply-To:** <djw@sphosp.org>**Name:** Douglas Westphal**Email:** djw@sphosp.org**Subject:** Ordinance 2016-22 Service Area Boundary Relocation**Message:**

I am the Director of Rehabilitation Services at South Peninsula Hospital. I have worked at the hospital for the past 23 years. Over that course of time I have treated any number of residents of both Clam Gulch and Ninilchik. I am opposed to the change in the boundary service area for a number of reasons including:

1. The residents who will be negatively impacted by a reduction in tax support do not even get to vote on it. Instead Soldotna and Kenai residents vote on it.
2. SPH staffing and support of the Ninilchik clinic is critical to the health care needs of residents of this area.
3. Moving this boundary will result in a major reduction to the Capital Budget that supports the community hospital services in Homer.

Appreciative of your careful consideration in this matter,

Douglas Westphal

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>**Date:** July 25, 2016 at 4:24:43 PM AKDT**To:** <assembly@kpb.us>**Cc:** <jblankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Reply-To:** <glendahazelwood2@gmail.com>**Name:** Glenda Hazelwood**Email:** glendahazelwood2@gmail.com**Subject:** Ordinance 2016-22**Message:**

I am against this ordinance because the people that are affected do not even get to vote on this. That is over 20, 000 people being affected by this decision. The people who benefit from this vote are the people who get to vote on it.

There is a need for substance abuse treatment for the lower peninsula, and by utilizing this new boundary, the doctor that was recruited for this will be unable to provide those services.

Most people want local care. It does help with healing when the family is nearby and able to visit.

passing this ordinance would do nothing to benefit the people of the lower Kenai Peninsula, and benefit the cities of Kenai and Soldotna

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>**Date:** July 25, 2016 at 3:12:13 PM AKDT**To:** <assembly@kpb.us>**Cc:** <jblankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Reply-To:** <las@sphosp.org>**Name:** Lisa Semple**Email:** las@sphosp.org**Subject:** proposed service area changes**Message:**

I am against ordinance 2016-22

this would be a major impact on sph capital budget, and decreases current services available to ninilchik residents

Subject:

FW: Common Service Boundary Move (Ordinance 2016-22) - please forward this email to the Assembly

From: Donna Rufsholm <djru@sphosp.org>

Date: July 25, 2016 at 4:04:22 PM AKDT

To: "'assemblyclerk@kpb.us'" <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Common Service Boundary Move (Ordinance 2016-22) - please forward this email to the Assembly

July 24, 2016

Members of the Borough Assembly
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Soldotna, Alaska

Please accept this opposition statement to the proposed Common Service Boundary Move (Ordinance 2016-22) between SPH and CPGH.

South Peninsula Hospital has invested in the primary care of the residents of Ninilchik by supporting the Ninilchik Community Clinic. SPH has established a partnership with the clinic to provide patient care services that include X-Ray interpretations, Ultrasound exams, lab oversight and physician services.

The services provided at the Ninilchik community clinic are unusual for a clinic of its size. The fact that the residents of Ninilchik do not have to travel thirty-five plus miles in inclement weather to receive care is a major benefit to the residents of the community.

Moving the service area boundary lines will negatively impact the established care the community currently receives.

If you must approve an ordinance to move the service area boundary, please consider moving it no further south than Barbara Road to preserve the health care services of the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Donna Rufsholm
Imaging Director
South Peninsula Hospital
Homer, Alaska

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>**Date:** July 25, 2016 at 9:30:49 AM AKDT**To:** <assembly@kpb.us>**Cc:** <jblankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Reply-To:** <rk2kbay@yahoo.com>**Name:** Richard Koskovich**Email:** rk2kbay@yahoo.com**Subject:** Senior Exemption 2016-24**Message:**

Please vote NO on Ordinance 2016-24!!!

Many of us have planned our retirements on the Senior Exemption and to change it now would be a huge setback for those of us near retirement.

Thank you,

Richard and Ann Koskovich
Homer, AK

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>

Date: July 25, 2016 at 9:00:53 AM AKDT

To: <assembly@kpb.us>

Cc: <jblankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Reply-To: <sbm3456@gmail.com>

Name: SHEVAWN MILLER

Email: sbm3456@gmail.com

Subject: Hospital service area change

Message:

Please forward this message on to the assembly. As a concerned member of the Homer community and a employee at South Peninsula hospital I request reconsideration of changes to service area boundaries for South peninsula hospital. These changes would adversely effect our community and would create financial hardship for all in our existing service area. It would create over 20% reduction to the SPH capital budget which funds modern equipment, which keeps people local for care, which improves quality, and aids in recruitment and retention... All which are the foundation of our sustainability. Also some of the locations of the proposed boundary locations will jeopardize the hospitals ability to contract health services to Ninilchik Community Clinic. the communities in the existing service area are to small and need to be kept together in oder to be able to have quality health care in our communities. Please do not destroy our hospitals ability to serve its people. Than you for your time. Concerned citizen.

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>**Date:** July 24, 2016 at 5:34:59 PM AKDT**To:** <assembly@kpb.us>**Cc:** <jblankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Reply-To:** <designone@gci.net>**Name:** Christine Hutchison**Email:** designone@gci.net**Subject:** Ordinance 2016-24,**Message:**

Your vote NO on Ordinance 2016-24, on Tuesday would be greatly appreciated for the following reasons:

1) there have been no discussions during recent budget hearings/ discussions that there was a deficit of funds for meeting expense obligations. Yes, I understand there is tightening of the belt issues for the State and bringing this ordinance forward is likely a plan to cover "what-if" short falls anticipated in years ahead; however, just creating fund balances at the expenses of taxpayers before the need is identified is NOT a good idea and there is no need to bring such an issue to the voters.

2) to create a scenario of one group of seniors against another group is never a good idea because such a scenario reeks of divisiveness that is not something people need these days;

3) until the state belt tightening is complete, "what if" the state eliminates the original property tax exemption. Considering there has been no discussion of revenue shortages, it would be best to wait for the State deficit dust to settle before rushing out with scare tactics to suck up whatever revenue may be seen as low hanging possibilities. Thank you for a vote NO on Ordinance 2016-24 and not burdening tax payers unnecessarily. Christine Hutchison

Subject:

FW: Ordinance 2016-22

From: Tom Stroozas <tstroozas@americascuisine.com>

Date: July 24, 2016 at 4:01:40 PM AKDT

To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance 2016-22

I am in opposition to Ordinance 2016-22 that proposes to move the boundary lines of the service area for South Peninsula Hospital. Thanks.

-Tom

Tom Stroozas - CFSP, RCGC, CFE

Stroozas & Associates, LLC

P. O. Box 1481

Homer, AK 99603

907-235-3677 office

704-488-3779 cell

Homer Elks - President / Exalted Ruler

Homer Chamber of Commerce - President

Kachemak Bay Masonic Club - President

City of Homer - Vice Chair Planning & Zoning Commission

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction".

--Ronald Reagan

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Subject:

FW: Northern Boundary Ordinance2016-22

From: Shirley Forquer <forqhoak@xyz.net>

Date: July 24, 2016 at 10:25:03 PM AKDT

To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Northern Boundary Ordinance2016-22

Please do not change the boundary line for the CPH and SPH service areas. While I am sure central peninsula people are all for it, it will definitely work to the detriment of our hospital. We should be given a chance to vote on any change. It may cause SPH to lose its top-100 critical access designation. If the lack of funding means losing services and doctors, it is a much longer trip for lower peninsula people to go to Soldotna than for Ninilchik residents to go either direction.

Please think this matter of the boundary change through from all angles.

I am very pleased with our hospital as it is now.

Sincerely

Shirley Forquer

PO Box 1187

Homer

235-8317

Subject:

FW: PLEASE VOTE NO on Ordinance 2026-24!

From: Al Chong <alaskanchongs@acsalaska.net>

Date: July 25, 2016 at 9:44:58 AM AKDT

To: <wogle@kpb.us>, <gknopp@kpb.us>, <bgilman@kpb.us>, <dbagley@kpb.us>, <swelles@kpb.us>, <bholmdahl@kpb.us>, <bjohnson@kpb.us>, <kellycooper@kpb.us>, <wdunne@kpb.us>, <jblankenship@kpb.us>, <mnavarre@kpb.us>

Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO on Ordinance 2026-24!

Dear **Mayor Navarre** AND **Kenai Peninsula Assembly Members** => Wayne Ogle; Gary Knopp; Blaine Gilman; Dale Bagley; Stan Welles; Brandii Holmdahl; Brent Johnson; Kelly Cooper; Wily Dunne; and Johni Blankenship:

**AS REQUESTED, BE PROUD & SUPPORT SENIORS!!
PLEASE VOTE NO ON ORDINANCE 2026-24!**

Thank you from Al and Bunny Chong

41710 Stone Court

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

252-0014 if you need to ask us any questions!

Subject:

FW: Ordinance 2016-24

From: Janet Brott <jollyme07@yahoo.com>

Date: July 25, 2016 at 10:54:05 AM AKDT

To: "wogle@kpb.us" <wogle@kpb.us>, "gknopp@kpb.us" <gknopp@kpb.us>, "bgilman@kpb.us" <bgilman@kpb.us>, "dbagley@kpb.us" <dbagley@kpb.us>, "swelles@kpb.us" <swelles@kpb.us>, "bholmdahl@kpb.us" <bholmdahl@kpb.us>, "bjohnson@kpb.us" <bjohnson@kpb.us>, "kellycooper@kpb.us" <kellycooper@kpb.us>, "wdunne@kpb.us" <wdunne@kpb.us>, "jblankenship@kpb.us" <jblankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance 2016-24

Reply-To: Janet Brott <jollyme07@yahoo.com>

Please I beg you to vote NO on Ordinance 2016-24.

As you vote on this ordinance 2016-24, please have mercy on the seniors and vote no. Stand by us and support us as we have stood by and supported you.

Seniors living on fixed income are having a difficult time as is.

Please vote NO!

Thank-you

Subject:

FW: Comment on Ordinance 2016-24

From: Toby Burke <kenaibirder@gmail.com>

Date: July 25, 2016 at 10:55:57 AM AKDT

To: <wogle@kpb.us>, <gknopp@kpb.us>, <bgilman@kpb.us>, <dbagley@kpb.us>, <swelles@kpb.us>, <bholmdahl@kpb.us>, <bjohnson@kpb.us>, <kellycooper@kpb.us>, <wdunne@kpb.us>, "Blankenship, Johni" <jblankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Comment on Ordinance 2016-24

Assemblymen,

I flatly reject the popular and patently false narrative fostered by many that our country's senior citizens are just barely getting by, subsisting on dog food because of their abject poverty. In fact, senior citizens are by far the wealthiest and fastest growing demographic in our country, state, and Borough. Face reality! Certainly there are poor seniors (just as there are poor non-seniors) within the Kenai Peninsula Borough but authentically poor seniors don't own real estate valued at \$300,000 or more! If they do, guess what? They're not poor! I am in favor of ending the inequitable property tax discounts (exemptions) that senior citizens currently enjoy in our Borough. No one is asking seniors to pay more in property taxes than their younger fellow taxpayers but merely the same. The Kenai Peninsula Borough needs to stop giving discounts to seniors which commensurately increase the tax burden on the less-wealthy non-senior demographic. The current tax scheme is inequitable and unjust! Why are we giving the wealthiest segment of our population all these ridiculous discounts!? Injustice, injustice, I say! Stop the give away. End this needless entitlement.

When seniors pay their fair share then the mill rate for all taxpayers should be substantially reduced - making the property tax burden more affordable for everyone. And while we're at it let's get rid of the state-mandated property tax discount (exemption) for seniors too. Enough is enough. Stop giving discounts to the wealthiest age-demographic and handing the bill to poorer age-demographics. For shame! Help correct this injustice.

Toby Burke
Kenai, AK

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>**Date:** July 22, 2016 at 1:55:06 PM AKDT**To:** <assembly@kpb.us>**Cc:** <jblankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Reply-To:** <katieb715@yahoo.com>**Name:** Caitlin Buchsteiner**Email:** katieb715@yahoo.com**Subject:** Service Area Change**Message:**

Dear Assembly Members,

While it seems like this decision has already been made and the open public comment is merely just a formality I would still like to take the time to let you know that I am vehemently against the proposed service area changes. To lose such a large amount of funding will drastically change the way SPH operates. SPH is an amazing facility that provides quality care to patients please do not jeopardize the funding to this wonderful community run hospital. Weakening SPH by cutting their funding is not for the greater good. As a Homer resident I ask that you please do not vote in favor of the service area changes; stop this train before it's too late. Thank you.

Subject: FW: Ordinance 2016-24
Attachments: assembly disclaimer.doc; ATT00001.htm

From: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>
Date: July 22, 2016 at 8:33:36 AM AKDT
To: johni blankenship <jblankenship@kpb.us>, mike navarre <mnavarre@kpb.us>, dale bagley <dbagley@kpb.us>, brent johnson <bjohnson@kpb.us>, wayne ogle <woogle@kpb.us>, Stan welles <swelles@kpb.us>, Gary knopp <gknopp@kpb.us>, kelly cooper <kellycooper@kpb.us>, blaine gilman <bgilman@kpb.us>, "Brandii Holmdahl" <sewardqa@gmail.com>, willy dunne <wdunne@kpb.us>, Mike Navarre <mnavarre@borough.kenai.ak.us>
Subject: Ordinance 2016-24
Reply-To: peter zuyus <ptzsr1@yahoo.com>

Good morning Assembly members.

The attached open letter is a public request for you to vote NO on Ordinance 2016-24, that raises taxes on future Senior citizens of the KPB.

The choice is very simple. Choose to be anti-Senior and vote yes, choose to be Pro-Senior Citizen and vote NO. The moniker of choice is yours. Those who were elected claiming support for Seniors can confirm their claims.

It would be great to see all of you on the Assembly vote to support the Senior citizens of the KPB.

Thank you all for your service to our community.
Peter Zuyus

Open Letter to the KPB Assembly

On July 26 you will be voting on Mayor Navarre's Ordinance 2016-24 to eliminate the KPB Senior exemption.

During your Assembly campaigns, many of you spoke about and highlighted support for the Senior citizens of the KPB. Ordinance 2026-24 is written to end the Senior real estate exemption which has been a part of the KPB codes since 1980.

The Ordinance attempts to turn Seniors against Seniors and children and grandchildren against their parents, by demonizing Seniors as a burden to the KPB community. The mayor and his surrogates are asking the Assembly to join them in turning on the Seniors of the KPB. One of their justifications is they are not eliminating the exemption, they just want to phase it out. Phasing out and eliminating are the same thing, period. You and we are not stupid.

The political tactic of dividing Seniors against Seniors, residents against Seniors and demonizing Seniors is a political tactic direct from the teachings of Marx, Goebbels and Saul Alinsky. Fortunately this is America and most people reject these tactics and cringe at these un-American philosophies. I encourage you to distance yourselves from this political shame.

Voting yes is anti-Senior, immoral and unethical at best. Following and condoning the discredited political tactics is deplorable.

Please stand up for the principles you previously espoused and **VOTE NO** on Ordinance 2016-24. Be proud and support Seniors.

Disclaimer: I am 71 years old and will not be affected by the Ordinance, but believe that our Seniors and the next generation of Seniors are an important and treasured part of the KPB community.

Peter Zuyus
Homer, Alaska

Subject:

FW: No on Ordinance 2016-22

From: Amanda Miotke <amandaakhomes@gmail.com>

Date: July 22, 2016 at 2:28:31 PM AKDT

To: <assemblyclerk@kpb.us>

Subject: No on Ordinance 2016-22

I am against ordinance 2016-22. Sounds like the big fish is trying to swim in the small fish pond , and squish all the water out.

--

Amanda Miotke

Subject:

FW: for all assembly members

-----Original Message-----

From: duanec@acsalaska.net [mailto:duanec@acsalaska.net]

Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2016 2:04 PM

To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

Subject: for all assembly members

To the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

Concerning your proposed changes to the Common Boundary between Central Kenai Peninsula Hospital Services and South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Services.

First of all, contrary to Brent Johnson's contention, it is a longer distance from Ninilchik to Central Peninsula Hospital than it is from Ninilchik to South Peninsula Hospital. Here are some stats:

- 1) In 2014 SPH treated 245 discrete residents from Clam Gulch and Ninilchik in its Homer facilities on 939 separate visits.
- 2) In FY 2015 SPH treated 250 discrete residents from Clam Gulch and Ninilchik in its Homer facilities on 917 separate visits.
- 3) In the first ten months of FY 2016, SPH treated 278 residents from Clam Gulch and Ninilchik in its Homer facilities on 911 separate visits.

Secondly, the residents of the southern boundary will not even have a say in this matter. Where does Kenai and Soldotna get off thinking they can make this determination for them? This is just a money grab by the central seat of power on the peninsula, as usual. If the residents along the southern boundary desire to be moved into Central Services, then it should be up to them, not anyone else.

Third, it will not reduce taxes for the residents affected for many years to come because of bonded indebtedness.

Ninilchik residents have been enjoying expanded services from SPH in their area over the last few years. These expanded services will go away if the boundaries are changed.

Lastly, Dr. Spence's efforts to provide addiction medicine clinics for the southern Kenai Peninsula will no doubt be negatively impacted.

This boundary change makes no sense for any reasonable thinking individual. In fact, if anything should be changed, the southern boundary should be moved closer to Soldotna, since this boundary splits some parts of Ninilchik. So, in this light, I would propose the boundary change be moved north, so that all of Ninilchik is part of the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Services Area.

Duane Christensen

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough [<mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>]**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 1:16 PM**To:** Assembly**Cc:** Blankenship, Johni**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Name:** Karen Northrop**Email:** kan@sphosp.org**Subject:** hospital border change Ordinance 2016-22**Message:**

My name is Karen Northrop and I have lived in Homer and worked at SPH providing care for nearly 20 years. I strongly oppose moving the boundary, especially as far south as it is being moved and dividing the Ninilchik community unnecessarily. This threatens the medical care that Dr. Sarah Spencer currently provides to the Ninilchik community, as well as the substance abuse treatment that she provides the whole southern peninsula. The southern Kenai Peninsula residents affected negatively by this proposal don't even get to vote on this, only residents of Soldotna and Kenai. The residents who would be removed from the service area would not see a reduction of taxes as they will still be obligated to pay on the southern Kenai Peninsula debt that was incurred when they were part of the service area. The number of clients from Ninilchik that receive care in Homer has grown each year, most likely due to the expansion of medical services available in Homer. Most importantly, this change will cause a reduction in revenue for SPH capital budget which will negatively affect this Critical Access Hospital. Please reconsider this proposal.

Thank you,

Karen Northrop, PT, DPT, OCS

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough [<mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>]**Sent:** Thursday, July 21, 2016 3:08 PM**To:** Assembly <AllCurrentBoroughAssemblyMembers@kpb.us>**Cc:** Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Name:** Blynn Dahlhamer**Email:** kitimum@alaska.net**Subject:** Proposed Service Area Changes**Message:**

The proposed service area changes Ordinance 2016-22 to move the common boundary will cause a major reduction to the South Peninsula Hospital capital budget. The proposed boundary will split the community and causes an unnecessary divide between the town, which will reduce their access to care. All residents in the South Peninsula Service Area should be allowed to vote on this matter since it affects our hospital and capital budget.

I'm in agreement with SPH Board, Service Area Board, and the Ninilchik Traditional Council in opposing this Ordinance. Thank you.

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough [<mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>]**Sent:** Friday, July 22, 2016 12:07 PM**To:** Assembly <AllCurrentBoroughAssemblyMembers@kpb.us>**Cc:** Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Name:** Edson Knapp, M.D.**Email:** erknapp@me.com**Subject:** Common Boundary between Central & South Peninsula**Message:**

I am a new physician at South Peninsula Hospital. We have moved to Homer and were surprised to discover the apparent attempt by the Kenai Borough to limit or restrict SPH. From our perspective the hospital is a remarkably excellent example of a rural hospital and should be encouraged not restricted. Having worked previously in rural hospitals in several states I can say without reservation that SPH is remarkable in it's excellence, compassion and technology. Given the unusual achievement of SPH and it's quality I would increase the service area of SPH not restrict it. Excellence and success in medicine, a very rare quality in today's difficult medical environment, should be rewarded, not attacked. It would be unfortunate for the borough to undercut one of their jewels in medical care.

Subject:

FW: Ordinance 2016-22

-----Original Message-----

From: Charlene [<mailto:bobdit@alaska.net>]

Sent: Monday, July 25, 2016 5:22 PM

To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance 2016-22

Please do NOT change the northern boundary line of the SPH service area. We need the current tax base for future capital improvements. We came to Homer in 1971 to live and start a family. The hospital here was very small then but an important part of that decision.

We have supported every capital improvement since then and know the hospital has to have funds for new equipment, rooms and the latest technologies. We draw a lot of young adults to SPH who know they will get the care they need for their growing families here in Homer where they live.

As senior citizens we depend on getting our medical needs met here in Homer. Again, please do not short change us in a decision we cannot vote on.

Robert and Charlene Ditton
4012 West Hill Rd
Homer, AK. 99603

Sent from my iPad

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough [<mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>]**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2016 6:06 PM**To:** Assembly <AllCurrentBoroughAssemblyMembers@kpb.us>**Cc:** Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Name:** William Bell**Email:** billbell@homermedical.org**Subject:** 2016-22**Message:**

Assembly Members-

As a practitioner at South Peninsula Hospital for the last 35 years I would like to suggest that any decisions on Health care, service areas and hospital boundaries not be made on a random case-by-case basis. rather, it should await a consolidated health plan that I hope to see come from the Mayor's Task force.

There is no doubt that if I lived north of Ninilchik I would also want to be taxed for the hopsital that I used, independent of any difference in the mill rate. However, it is critical that we all support our hospitals, as we all support our schools. Many of the patients in our hospital come from all over the state and the nation when they come to the South Peninsula to vacation. It is critical that the hospital remain viable. There are a number of patients from the Central Peninsula that come to Homer for medical care, as there are patients from Homer that go to CPGH, independent of where their mill rate is paid.

Clearly, the close cooperation between the Ninilchik Tribal Council and SPH to provide expanded services in the central area has been a success on many fronts.

I would ask that you postpone any decision on this ordinance until we have developed a cohesive policy for the provision of health care on the western peninsula.

Thank you.

Subject:

FW: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough [<mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>]**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2016 7:38 PM**To:** Assembly <AllCurrentBoroughAssemblyMembers@kpb.us>**Cc:** Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>**Subject:** New Public Comment to Assembly Members**Name:** SHARON SMITH**Email:** ruby@xyz.net**Subject:** ORDINANCE 2016-22**Message:**

AS a resident of the Kenai Peninsula (Anchor Point) for the last 30 years....I submit that this proposed ordinance (2016-22) does not pass

Subject:

FW: ordinance 2016-22

From: joalaska [<mailto:joalaska@ptialaska.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 10:32 AM

To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

Subject: ordinance 2016-22

Please copy this to the Assembly members for tonights meeting:

Please approve the proposed border changes for the hospitals, ordinance 2016-22.

Most residents who live north of Ninilchik, use medical facilities in Kenai and Soldotna, rather than driving to Homer. It makes better sense, to allow them to be included in the Central Peninsula service ares, supporting the area that serves them.

Thank you,

Joann Odd
P.O.. Box 62
Clam Gulch, AK 99568

Subject:

FW: ordinance 2016-22

----- Original Message -----

From: joalaska

To: assemblyclerk@kpb.us

Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 10:32 AM

Subject: ordinance 2016-22

Please copy this to the Assembly members for tonights meeting:

Please approve the proposed border changes for the hospitals, ordinance 2016-22.

Most residents who live north of Ninilchik, use medical facilities in Kenai and Soldotna, rather than driving to Homer. It makes better sense, to allow them to be included in the Central Peninsula service ares, supporting the area that serves them.

Thank you,

Holly Odd
P.O.. Box 62
Clam Gulch, AK 99568

Subject:

FW: Boundary Line

-----Original Message-----

From: Janet Goehringer [<mailto:homeontherange@wildak.net>]

Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2016 10:24 PM

To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

Subject: Boundary Line

I understand you want to relocate the Boundary Line for the Brough. I first feel that the residents of Homer have a right to vote on this decision.

When I moved to Homer 6 years ago I was so impressed with South Peninsula Hospital and this helped my husband and I to relocate to Homer. We were impressed with what was available in services and the professional doctors that were here for our needs.

I am involved with South Peninsula Hospital Auxiliary and have been a member for 6 years and find my volunteer time is so worthwhile and needed for the Auxiliary Shop.

Our Shop profits are used for worthy items and needs for the hospital. I am saying that the service area remains where it is presently. South Peninsula services it area as required and our hospital covers the needs of Homer and the extended service area when called upon.

Jan & Bob Goehringer

P.O. Box 516

Homer, Ak

235-2149

Sent from my iPad