



May 30, 2023

Mayor Peter Micciche
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

SUBJECT: KPB Ordinance 2023-11: Amending Borough Code, KPB 2.40.015 and KPB 2.40.030, to Reduce the Number of Seats on the Planning Commission and Provide for an Orderly Process for Seat Reduction

Mayor and Assembly Members,

The Soldotna City Council held its regular city council meeting on May 24, 2023. The council agenda included Action Memorandum 2023-011, addressing KPB Ordinance 2023-11. The council unanimously approved the action memorandum and directed the City Manager to send a letter on behalf of the council requesting the Assembly consider the following amendments to the ordinance:

2.40.015 – Apportionment

- A. The planning commission will consist of eleven members. Commission membership will be apportioned consistent with assembly member districts with two seats reserved for home rule and first class cities located in the borough.
- B. Only City residents may serve on a city seat and shall be selected by the Borough Mayor from a list provided by the City Council. The list will contain at least one applicant from the respective city.
- C. The city seats shall be set up on a rotational basis.
- D. No City may have more than one representative on the Planning Commission.

Please note this topic is not new to the City of Soldotna and the cities in the borough. In 2021, the city council unanimously adopted Resolution 2021-055, supporting KPB Ordinance 2021-40. The city council resolution states:

“WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the cities and the borough that all cities have a fixed seat on the KPB Planning Commission **to ensure that a diversity of perspectives are offered and that cities have a voice on local and regional land use decisions and policy recommendations**”.

The City continues to believe in the importance of diversity of perspectives that are offered by the cities in the borough.

In addition to the importance of maintaining the diversity of perspectives, the City of Soldotna requests the Borough Mayor and Assembly reconsider removing the city's ability to select a city resident to serve on the planning commission. The City reaffirms its capability and aptitude to select the best candidate to represent both the city and borough residents.

The City of Soldotna respectfully requests the Borough Mayor and Assembly consciously consider the City's requested amendments and understand our belief that removing the fixed seats removes the continuity and inclusion that has been gained since the adoption of KPB Ordinance 2021-40.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janette Bower", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Janette Bower
City Manager

cc: Robert Ruffner, KPB Planning Director