

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough [<mailto:webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 8:44 AM
To: BoroughAssembly <Borough-Assembly@kpb.us>
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: Katherine George

Your Email: kgeorge@acsalaska.net

Subject: SPH boundary change ordinance

Message:

Please do not change the boundary of our hospital service area.

From: vivandclyde@gmail.com [<mailto:vivandclyde@gmail.com>] **On Behalf Of** Vivian Finlay
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 8:18 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>
Subject: SPH boundary

To Assembly members:

Please do not change the boundary of the area that serves SPH. Why would we want to "penalize" SPH by removing so many people from the service area and therefore affect the financial health of the hospital? We do not want to loose our hospital here in the lower peninsula, and we do not want to compromise the services it provides.

Thank you.
Vivian Finlay
455 Elderberry Drive,
Homer,

AK. 99603
907-435-3903

From: Risa Jackinsky [<mailto:rjackinsky@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 12:46 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>
Subject: SPH Hospital Service area boundary

Please do not change the boundary of the SPH hospital service area.

Thank you,
Risa Jackinsky

From: Amy Bollenbach [<mailto:amybollenbach@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 11:50 AM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>
Subject: Boundary change for hospital service area

Please do **not change the boundary for the hospital service area for South Peninsula Hospital and Central Peninsula Hospital.**

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

From: Wayne Bumpus [<mailto:aaentinc@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, April 29, 2018 10:28 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance 2018-16

Mr mayor and all assembly members, after reading all the research and testimonials about the hospital boundary line, we both agree that the line must be moved from the Clam Gulch tower to Barbara Dr. This is only fair, as a veteran with a disability and my wife with rumatoid arthritis, we have always been directed to Soldotna Hospital and never to Homer. It's not fair to pay for something that you never use is it? Thank you for serving our community, Wayne & Paula Bumpus

Sent from my iPhone

Your Name: Janie Leask

Your Email: huntave@yahoo.com

Subject: Proposed Hospital boundary change

Message:

I'm writing to voice my opposition to any change to the service area of the South Peninsula Hospital.

This seems to be a move to "fix" something that isn't broken.

South Peninsula Hospital is critical to Homer and our surrounding communities. Many retirees live in the southern peninsula, my husband and I included, and SPHH provides a critical level of care that we wouldn't get unless we traveled several hours north. One of our considerations for moving here was the stellar care provided through SPHH which serves many Medicare and Medicaid patients.

This simply doesn't make sense.

Why make a change if those directly impacted by it aren't calling for a change?

Why penalize South Peninsula Hospital in Homer by financial cuts which impair its ability to continue providing excellent care to its patients/customers?

Why punish residents of Clam Gulch, Ninilchik and other south peninsula communities by voting for a change that would impact the level of care they're currently receiving?

I don't understand. Unless it's a move to consolidate medical services by pitting one hospital against another.

I urge you to reject this change. If there are truly good reasons for this proposal, then submit it to a public process which takes much longer than this current effort.

thank you,

Janie Leask

Homer resident

Your Name: Vivian Finlay

Your Email: vivianfinlay@gmail.com

Subject: SPH service area boundary

Message:

I oppose any change to the service area of South Peninsula Hospital. The Borough needs to be sure all citizens have access to good health care. In the South peninsula, Homer area, there are more retirees than in the northern area. Our fees that support our hospital from our mill rate is typically used for capital projects and to fund bonds - all of which go towards important facilities in Homer. In the Northern area, the mill rate is much lower and funding received is not needed for large capital projects. The proposed change in service area boundary would deny South Peninsula Hospital about \$220,000 per year. This definitely affects the hospital's ability to provide services that they currently provide. SPH outreaches to the Ninilchik community and provides many services there. Would Central peninsula hospital do the same? I doubt it. Please don't allow the service area to change by changing the mile post number and saying all below are with SPH. Let's think about the long term ramifications for SPH and for all of us who live in the southern peninsula and want the hospital's services to continue to be as good as they currently are. This good SPH hospital is a major reason many of us who retired here did so. Thank you.

From: McKibben Jackinsky [<mailto:mckibben.jackinsky@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, April 29, 2018 9:56 PM

To: Pierce, Charlie <CPierce@kpb.us>; Ogle, Wayne <wogle@kpb.us>; Cooper, Kelly <kellycooper@kpb.us>; Dunne, Willy <WDunne@kpb.us>; Hibbert, Brent <bhibbert@kpb.us>; Smalley, Hal <HSmalley@kpb.us>; Bagley, Dale <dalebagley@kpb.us>; Blakeley, Norm <NBlakeley@kpb.us>; Carpenter, Kenn <KCarpenter@kpb.us>; Fischer, Paul <pfischer@kpb.us>

Cc: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>

Subject: ORDINANCE 2018-16

April 29, 2017

As part of a long-time Kenai Peninsula family, my loved ones and I have had numerous experiences with the peninsula's knowledgeable, skilled and caring medical community. We've been here long enough - as some of you may have been - to be thankful for the hospital that used to exist in Seldovia and have family members born in the Seward hospital. From the drawing of our first breaths to our last, we've been cared for by peninsula physicians, medical assistants, nurses, CNAs, EMTs, specialists and, when our needs were beyond what could be treated locally, had peninsula medical staff arrange for us to be flown to Anchorage.

My husband, Sylvester Mazen, and I have a cabin in Ninilchik and a home in Homer and are very thankful for the medical expertise we have around us. Now in our 90s and 70s, medical services available have become a deciding factor in choosing where to maintain our permanent residence.

Ordinance 2018-16, assembly member Dale Bagley's proposal to move the boundary separating South Peninsula Hospital and Central Peninsula Hospital to increase the CPH service area and decrease the SPH service area, concerns us for a number of reasons:

1. What would happen to the support SPH provides to the Ninilchik clinic if the boundary is changed? If that support is eliminated, what will happen to the hundreds of patients, including ones from Anchor Point and Homer, who take advantage of the clinic? CPH has not offered to provide those services. Ninilchik Village Tribe, Ninilchik Traditional Council and the Ninilchik Community Clinic oppose the boundary change and what it would mean in services available to clinic patients.
2. A fiscal note was not provided with the ordinance; however, SPH has calculated the proposed boundary change would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of capital budget dollars for SPH. How will that impact SPH patients? How will it impact SPH employees?
3. The number of Ninilchik and Calm Gulch residents using SPH is increasing, going from 991 in 2015 to more than 1,400 in 2017. That's a significant increase. My husband and I are among those using both the hospital and clinic in Homer, as recently as yesterday, a Saturday, for which we are incredibly thankful.
4. If the boundary shifts and more taxpayers are in the CPH service area, as the sponsor of the ordinance suggests might happen, but Ninilchik taxpayers continue to use SPH, how would it impact SPH?
5. The borough's 2015 Health Task Force concluded that borough health services "are supported by communities that are staunchly independent," with no recommendation made for a boundary change. What has occurred in two years to make the sponsor of the ordinance think one is needed now?
6. Considering impacts the proposed boundary change would have on the southern peninsula, it is absolutely necessary that southern peninsula voters be part of the decision-making. For them to be excluded from a vote makes no sense.

There is no evidence that moving the boundary between SPH and CPH to the south would result in improved medical care. There is no evidence of any financial benefit. There is no evidence the number of CPH patients would increase. Lacking evidence, there are only assumptions made by the ordinance sponsor.

Please do not waste the borough's time and dollars by supporting KPB Ordinance 2018-16.

Sincerely,

McKibben Jackinsky

4001 El Sarino Court

Homer, Alaska

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

From: Janie Leask [<mailto:huntave@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Sunday, April 29, 2018 5:55 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Proposed Hospital Boundary Change

I'm writing to voice my opposition to any change to the service area of the South Peninsula Hospital.

This seems to be a move to "fix" something that isn't broken. South Peninsula Hospital is critical to Homer and our surrounding communities. Many retirees live in the southern peninsula, my husband and I included, and SPHH provides a critical level of care that we wouldn't get unless we traveled several hours north. One of our considerations for moving here was the stellar care provided through SPHH which serves many Medicare and Medicaid patients.

This simply doesn't make sense.

Why make a change if those directly impacted by it aren't calling for a change? Why penalize South Peninsula Hospital in Homer by financial cuts which impair its ability to continue providing excellent care to its patients/customers? Why punish residents of Clam Gulch, Ninilchik and other south peninsula communities by voting for a change that would impact the level of care they're currently receiving?

I don't understand. Unless it's a move to consolidate medical services by pitting one hospital against another.

I urge you to reject this change. If there are truly good reasons for this proposal, then submit it to a public process which takes much longer than this current effort.

thank you,
Janie Leask

Homer resident

Your Name: LYNN TAKEOKA SPENCE

Your Email: ltakeokaspence@gmail.com

Subject: SPH Service Area Boundary

Message:

Dear Assembly,

I am pleased to have a hospital in Homer that has expanded services over the 35 years I have lived here. The service area has worked well and I applaud the borough for supporting it. I do not believe the current ordinance to reduce the size of the SPH Service area is in the best interest of the borough. It will not improve the services available to residents. I attended the meeting in Ninilchik and heard from residents who reside in the area that will be most affected by the proposed change. People spoke on both sides of the issue. Some valued the health care services provided by SPH in Ninilchik and traveled south to use SPH and others wanted their taxes lowered because they travel north for hospital care. For me this is not a tax issue. It is a quality of care issue. I ask the borough to vote to keep the quality of care as great and available as possible. This means I do not want to see the service area reduced.

Mr. Bagley told me for him it was about fairness regarding taxes. He thought a mile marker should be the determining factor in drawing the line because it implied which direction people would travel. The testimony of the Ninilchik residents did not seem to support that. I also wonder

if all the other borough boundaries use this philosophy. Is the line between the CPH service area and Seward based on mile marker between the two? Are the road service areas determined this way? Do we divide students at different schools by mile markers? Some times in determining service areas there are other factors to consider than distance. I encourage the assembly to think beyond mile markers.

I am not sure why the assembly is not more interested in getting the entire borough into one hospital service area or another. Since almost all residents will have occasion to use hospital services, it seems right that the entire borough should be in a service area. If you feel compelled to changing the hospital service area, it seems right to get the whole borough covered before changing the boundaries of already established service areas.

I would say one thing about taxes. Some times we pay taxes for services we don't think we use and that might not seem right but as a borough we have chosen to be organized and to do some things that are good for whole. Things like schools, hospitals, roads, utility services and infrastructure in general make life better for most of us. I like it that my neighbors kids are well educated and will become productive, thinking members of our community. I like it that I can drive through the borough on fairly well maintained roads any time of year. We pay into different road service areas but we all have the opportunity to drive the road. Some pay more and some less at different times but the key thing is, we vote to create the service areas and we vote to approve the tax burdens we are willing to support. When the decisions don't go our way, we have to live with it or move out. Most of us will live with it because in the end, we like where we live and the things that taxes in general support, make our lives easier and better.

Your Name: Hal Smith MD

Your Email: halcsmith22@gmail.com

Subject: SPH service area boundary

Message:

I am totally opposed to moving the boundary of the South Peninsula Service area. I am an Emergency Physician and have worked at South Peninsula Hospital for 35 years and have also worked in the ER at CPH for 25 years. This boundary has served the communities well since its inception and should not be changed because some residents want lower taxes. Everyone wants lower taxes. The financial implications to South Peninsula Hospital would be severe, as well as Ninilchik losing the extensive health services that SPH now provides. The greater good of the communities should be the driving force here. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is an apt comment here. The current boundary worked well for the southern peninsula communities and continues to work well. Severely affecting the financial base of South Peninsula Hospital and depriving the residents of excellent and convenient access to health care is a cruel and horrible idea. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue to our communities.

Your Name: Anne Wieland

Your Email: agpacsu@yahoo.com

Subject: South Peninsula Hospital boundary

Message:

I strongly oppose the proposed ordinance that would decrease the size of the South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) service area. This could cost our hospital more than \$200,000 a year and more in

future years which would result in a drastic loss in current services to this area.

We are very happy with the way the hospital functions now. The Senior population in Homer, Kachemak City, Fritz Creek, the Russian Villages at the head of the bay, Anchor Point, Happy Valley and Ninilchik is continuing to increase. It would be a terrible loss for us if a huge cut in funding for South Peninsula Hospital happened as well for the younger population including maternity services. Just in my family alone, I've had three visits to the SPH Emergency Room for different problems in the last 10 years and am very grateful for the excellent care I received. My daughter and son-in law both had emergency appendectomies earlier. It would have been a threat to their lives if they had to go all the way to Soldotna for those surgeries.

of the growing population of the south peninsula all had to drive all the way to Soldotna for many of the services that SPH now provides and would lose if the service area were diminished, lives could be lost in transit. Some with financial difficulties now likely as a result of possible loss of health care insurance through the Affordable Care Act would not be able to afford ambulance transfers for the 75 or so miles. If SPH services are diminished or lost, the general well being of the population here will suffer with some unwilling or unable to make the trip north.

Apparently in the past when an ordinance to decrease the Senior Exemption on property taxes was put before Peninsula voters, it passed here in our area. I was and am more than willing to pay more taxes to make sure the SPH services we have remain. Perhaps if more Seniors knew that the high level of their health care was at risk, they would be willing to pay more taxes to keep it.

It's understandable that some people in Ninilchik who prefer going north for hospital services feel that that our 2.3 mil rate is unfairly high for them. They would clearly prefer to pay only 0.1. If the current proposed ordinance is passed, what is to stop Happy Valley from petitioning for the SPH service area boundary to be moved south of them? Apparently however the health care providers and organizations in Ninilchik prefer that the boundaries remain where they are now. Their town receives outreach services from SPH and they don't want to lose that.

Bottom Line: Keep the SPH boundary where it is. Work to persuade Seniors to be willing to lose some of their property tax exemption to help lower the 2.3 mil rate. Maybe pro-rate it. Increase the exemption based on age over 65.

Thank you,
Anne Wieland
P.O. Box 1395
Homer, AK 99603

April 28, 2018

To: Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

RE: Ordinance 2018-16, SPH Boundary Change

I oppose changing the South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) boundary. Homer has worked hard to build new medical facilities, improve health care programs and available medical services, and bring in new medical staff to meet the needs of its service area residents, including the expanding retirement population. All of these changes were done with knowledge that current taxes could cover these changes.

The map of existing boundaries represents a fair allocation of resources for the Borough's hospital service areas. Each area needs sufficient population to pay for needed services. SPH has reached out to provide needed services to Ninilchik. To withdraw those funds now by changing the boundary, after a facility has been built, doctors employed, and new programs established in response to a need that the Ninilchik area expressed, is irresponsible. Dependable funding is essential. Let's not set a precedent in setting boundaries simply because one rate is lower than the adjoining one.

Having top notch medical care around the Peninsula is important, not only for the residents and visitors in each area, but also for quality of life and economic stability. People move to and stay in communities in part because they have good medical care, good schools, and adequate public safety. These are essential services, and it does not pay to cut corners or undercut other communities by redrawing lines. Decisions are made based on stable boundaries and the income the zone brings in. Changing boundaries after a service area investment to improve health care for the residents is not fair.

Remember too, changing the boundary and potentially causing problems for health care service in the southern peninsula could have economic repercussions. People make decisions to live in communities based on the health care available. Homer is a major retirement area for other Alaskans and even folks from Outside. Withdrawing support for our level of care now, will likely cause some folks to have to leave. Visitors also make decisions to travel to communities based on available health care. Since Homer is a major destination for many people, including those with disabilities or health issues, fewer folks with limitations might choose not to visit Homer. Less visitors means less tax revenue for the City and the Borough.

The health care provided by the clinic in Ninilchik might not be able to provide all the coverage currently available, such as pre-natal and well-baby exams, obstetrics and gynecological care, ultrasound tests, and x-ray interpretation. Reduced services may result in more health issues and increased costs to hospitals for emergency care. Preventative care is an effective means of reducing health care costs.

The most important consideration is that all areas of the Peninsula need access to quality medical care. Making decisions such as this boundary change to the detriment of one area is not good policy, particularly considering this was laid to rest a while back.

Also, there are very serious financial consequences to this boundary change that should not be taken lightly. Funding for CPH and SPH are very different. SPH depends much more on medicare and medicaid, especially since this area has drawn so many retirees. With possible cuts to these two programs, SPH faces some serious financial losses already. The boundary change adds to this burden and will assuredly have major consequences to health care on the southern peninsula.

Ordinance 2018-16 is ill-conceived and short-sighted. The goal of the assembly should not be to at will change boundaries to provide lower mil rates to some residents. The goal should be to provide high quality health care for all residents. I am sure, visitors to the southern peninsula would appreciate this equity if an emergency arises and they have to visit the local hospital. Please do not pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

Your Name: Ron Keffer

Your Email: annronkeffer@gmail.com

Subject: SPH service area

Message:

I am writing to oppose any change to the service area of South Peninsula Hospital (SPH). The current service area is working well and is not in need of change.

The central peninsula and the south peninsula are two quite different places. The central pen has three times as many people as the south pen, and the south pen has a much larger proportion of retirees. Those two facts alone dictate that the two areas need different approaches to providing quality health care. (The borough's first concern should be that all its citizens have convenient access to good health care!)

The central pen can fund the activities of its hospital through fees alone. A preponderance of its patients enters the hospital with commercial health insurance that pays at high rates. South pen, on the other hand, serves many Medicare and Medicaid patients, and those programs pay at a much lower rate. The very low 0.01 mills that central pen's service area levies goes entirely to funding the borough's annual audit of central pen's hospital. The mill rate that is levied in the south pen almost always is used for capital projects, and the bonds to which a large portion of the levy is devoted have enabled the hospital in Homer to provide adequate facilities.

Ninilchik has benefitted from the services of South Peninsula Hospital, and the health care organizations in Ninilchik have spoken against this change in service area boundaries. South Peninsula Hospital has an operating concept that supports outreach such as that expressed in the ob-gyn services, the pregnancy clinic, the well-baby clinic, and the reading of X-ray and scan films SPH provides in Ninilchik. Central pen's hospital operates from a campus concept, and generally does not offer the kind of outreach services that form a significant part of the work of South Peninsula Hospital.

The change proposed in hospital service area boundaries would result immediately in denying South Peninsula Hospital about \$220,000 per year, an amount that would increase in succeeding years. This would severely impair the ability of the hospital to pursue the mission of providing good health care to all those who live in or visit the south pen. Additionally, there would be a severe reduction in the local availability of health care services in Ninilchik.

One other important consideration in this matter is that the tax money lost in the boundary change would not go to Central Peninsula Hospital. It would not go anywhere; it simply would be lost. (Taxpayers living in the area that might be moved to the central pen service area would continue to pay the millage required to retire capital bonds until 2032.) Kenai Peninsula Borough should be concerned with the provision of quality health care throughout the borough, but this change would gratuitously provide a considerable reduction in funding for health care with no compensatory increase anywhere.

Finally, one of the most destructive effects of moving this ill-conceived ordinance forward would be that some additional areas within the borough might find it attractive to seek tax relief for themselves. How open should we be to making frequent changes in our system of taxation for

critical portions of our infrastructure? Uncertainty is not a good foundation for providing health care or any other important service.

The effects of this proposed boundary change clearly would be harmful to the borough's citizens. I urge you to reject this ordinance! If service area changes seem needed, such changes must involve a years' long process of careful consideration. This is no small matter that can be converted into a simple question of mile posts.

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

From: Kenshalo Family [<mailto:thekenshalos@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2018 1:25 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Assembly Meeting May 1, Hospital Service Area Boundary

Please forward this message to all assembly members. Thank you.

To the Honorable Assembly Members,

My husband and I have owned property on the Kenai off and on for 40 years. We have lived on Corea Bend since 1991. Our son was born at the Central Peninsula hospital in 1980.

We have used the Soldotna hospital ER several times. We have never used the Homer hospital. Although we pay taxes for the Homer Hospital, the Central Peninsula Hospital is much closer and faster to get to from our house. Please consider Assemblyman Bagley's amendment to change the ordinance defining the hospital boundary to Barbara drive. It is only fair.

Thank you,

Christine and James Kenshalo

61785 Corea Bend Rd

Clam Gulch, AK 99568

On Apr 28, 2018, at 1:29 PM, Brent Johnson <ragweb@icloud.com> wrote:
Hello everyone!

At the Assembly meeting on Tuesday, May 1, I expect two amendments to Ordinance 2018-16. (1) I think Assemblyman Bagley will amend the line back to Barbra Drive, just north of Banta's place. This will greatly reduce the financial burden for the Homer Hospital. Barbara Drive is the highway midpoint between the hospitals and so the case is strong for people north of that line to be in the Soldotna Hospital Service Area. And (2) I expect Assemblyman Bagley to amend the ordinance to include the south side of Kachemak Bay to be in the Homer Hospital Service Area. The City of Seldovia, itself, has veto power over any inclusion so the city boundary will still be excluded. But there is a lot of valuable Kachimak Bay properties that will be within the new boundary. This change will more than offset the loss of revenue experienced by moving the line from Clam Gulch Tower to Barbara Drive—the Homer Hospital will actually realize a net gain. With these changes in mind, there is a high possibility that the Assembly will approve Ordinance 2018-16, if maybe 25 people show up to testify in favor of it. If

someone can't testify in person, they should send emails to the Assembly. Low participation speaks loud and clear to the Assembly. Homer Hospital would rather retain the Clam Gulch Tower line where it is. That is a hurdle that can only be overcome with public testimony.

Thanks!

Brent

Your Name: Dr. Todd Gustafson

Your Email: gustafson@juniata.edu

Subject: hospital service area

Message:

I strongly oppose the proposed modification to the SPH service area. The change proposed is silly, disruptive and poorly conceived.

From: peter zuyus [<mailto:ptzsr1@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, April 30, 2018 2:05 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>; Hibbert, Brent <bhibbert@kpb.us>; Bagley, Dale <dalebagley@kpb.us>; Carpenter, Kenn <KCarpenter@kpb.us>; Fischer, Paul <pfischer@kpb.us>; Dunne, Willy <WDunne@kpb.us>; Cooper, Kelly <kellycooper@kpb.us>; Smalley, Hal <HSmalley@kpb.us>; Blakeley, Norm <NBlakeley@kpb.us>; Ogle, Wayne <wogle@kpb.us>

Cc: Pierce, Charlie <CPierce@kpb.us>

Subject: Ordinance 2018-16

Dear Assembly members,

I am writing this letter, both as a resident and Senior Citizen advocate. I strongly support the position of Assembly member Kelly Cooper in her request that you vote NO on Ordinance **2018-16** changing of the Southern Peninsula Hospital service area border boundary. This appears to be a relic of administrations gone by that have desired to reduce the SPH to emergency room status.

This letter is stern, but it needs to be. This issue is outrageous and without merit.

How many times must you be told that both hospitals are well run? To use a medical term everything is in "stasis". It is not broken, so there is no need to fix it.

If you move the service area boundary line, SPH will lose critical income resulting in financial loses that could affect health care to the entire SPH serving area.

How many deaths do you feel are appropriate to justify the need to change the service area boundary? One? Two? How many?

Do you really want your children to say, "Hey mom, hey Dad why did you help kill Mrs. Jones?". Those of you who vote to proceed with this ordinance must realize that you will be publicly associated with any negative medical consequences that result from moving the boundary.

Motions such as this are typically made in the campaign seasons to stir controversy and each time they are defeated. 9-0 for NO is the only proper and humane vote. You are not playing a game of move the dollars, you are playing with people's lives. If you value life at all, your decision is simple, vote NO. If

you vote yes for this ordinance, it will be a sad day for the KPB and a sad commentary that your sense of self-importance is more important than people's lives.

I also ask you, Mayor Pierce, that if common sense and sense of community safety do not prevail, that you veto upon receipt.

In summary, please vote **NO** on Ordinance **2018-16**

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter T. Zuyus

Senior Citizen Advocate

Your Name: Kathryn Carssow

Your Email: kcarssow@live.com

Subject: SPH Service Area

Message:

Please do not pursue changing the South Peninsula Hospital Service Area boundary. You have received informative testimony from hospital staff, the Ninilchik health clinic staff and others in opposition to shifting the boundary south. It is an unjustifiable proposal that jeopardizes the quality of health care accessible to the south peninsula residents as a whole. As a borough resident, I expect the borough assembly's mission to be to protect and improve health services for the benefit of all Kenai Peninsula residents. I find this proposal sadly divisive and its further pursuit would be a poor reflection on our elected borough officials. Thank you for your service and consideration.

My name is Mike DenBoer. My wife and I live in Clam Gulch and do most of our business in Soldotna and Kenai. I'm unable to attend the assembly meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) night, but I wanted to express our feelings regarding the Ordinance 2018-16 about moving the hospital service area boundary. In an emergency, time is of the essence. We live 30 minutes from Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna and over an hour from Homer. During the summer, with the excessive tourist traffic, the time is longer. It makes more sense for our family to go to Soldotna in an emergency than it does to go to Homer, but yet that's what the current hospital boundaries recommend. Even in a non-emergency situation, why would we consider going to Homer when Soldotna is clearly closer? Because of our situation we ask that you vote in favor of moving the hospital service area boundary line to at least the mid-way point between Homer and Soldotna which is Barbara Drive at milepost 133.7.

Thank you for your time,

Mike DenBoer
57292 Compton Avenue
Clam Gulch, Alaska 99568
907-740-8541

Dear Assembly members,

My name is Meghan Heppler and I am a resident of Clam Gulch. I reside at 57292 Compton Ave Clam Gulch, AK 99568. I am a mile south of the tower. I live 30 minutes from Soldotna and almost 60 minutes from Homer. I am in favor of moving the hospital line to just south of Ninilchik. I do not take any of my emergency services to the Homer hospital. A good example is when I went into labor this past year at 2 a.m. my husband drove straight to Soldotna because it was much closer. Driving all the way down to Homer was out of the question. Another example is when I sliced my finger open while butchering I went to Soldotna due to it being closer. I do not plan on at any time going to the Homer hospital unless something happens to me or mine while in Homer or Anchor Point due to it being the closer hospital at that time. However, any other emergency or medical need I take to Soldotnas' hospital.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Meghan Heppler



NTC COMMUNITY CLINIC & ANNEX
PO Box 39368
15765 KINGSLEY RD.
NINILCHIK, AK 99639

CLINIC PH: 907.567.3970
CLINIC FX: 907.567.3902
ANNEX PH: 907.567.3370
ANNEX FX: 907.567.3310

May 1, 2018

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

Dear Assembly Member:

I am writing this letter regarding the proposed Ordinance 2018-16. I am completely opposed to the proposed boundary line change.

I am the Tribal Health Director at the Ninilchik Community Clinic (for Ninilchik Traditional Council (NTC)) and have worked here for 7 years. We have worked very hard at improving the medical services that we provide to the people who use our clinic. Patients come from all over Alaska and Outside, especially in the summer months. They choose our clinic, for the quality of services that we provide here and we have been able to do this with the assistance that we have received from South Peninsula Hospital. It took years to find a physician for our clinic and South Peninsula Hospital (SPH) was instrumental in making this happen. They have provided laboratory oversight and their radiologists read our X-Rays and SPH provides the sonographer who comes to our clinic to complete Ultrasounds. If this proposed boundary proposal is passed, our clinic will potentially lose the specialized medical services that we have been providing to our patients. We have recently spent a great deal of money on a new network and the change would financially impact us to once again, change the process that has already been put in place

I know there was public testimony/letters from residents who are in favor of this ordinance, who I don't believe really understand the negative impact that it will have on our small clinic and SPH. Not to mention, that they would not see a change in their taxes for years to come.

It has been very challenging and time consuming to reach the level of care we now provide at the Ninilchik Clinic. We are in between both areas and often ignored by State, Federal and Borough governments. I would strongly encourage the Assembly to really reconsider this proposed ordinance which has been in place for decades without any public outcry. I would also encourage the Assembly to look at the overall mill rate to make it fair and equitable and that which would not adversely affect either hospital.

Thank you for your consideration on this proposed ordinance and how it could potentially impact our clinic, South Peninsula Hospital and the patients who use both.

Sincerely:

Janet Mullen, RN, BSN
NTC Tribal Health Director

Your Name: Stuart Schmutzler

Your Email: alpinestu@gmail.com

Subject: SPH service area change

Message:

Quality, affordable healthy care is essential for the well being of society. The costs required should be shared by all. I believe the borough should contribute to the funding of all of the health care facilities within the borough, rather than requiring each community to provide for their own. If someone should require medical care while outside of their home turf, they would appreciate an available facility. Local control should remain with each facility

Dear KPB Assembly:

The attempt to adjust the boundaries of the hospital districts will ultimately do nothing but appease a few hundred people in the Niniichik area and begin to erode the very economic foundation of the South Peninsula Hospital. I urge you to resist such a change and think in terms of the long haul.

Thank you,

Jim Stearns

2267 Mt. Augustine Dr.

Homer 99603

LOREN LEMAN, P.E.
PO BOX 190773
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519-0773
(907) 243-2000
loren@lorenleman.com

May 1, 2018

Dear Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Member:

Re: Ordinance 2018-16

I support Dale Bagley's effort to change the common boundary between the two hospital service areas to create greater equity. However, instead of placing the boundary at Barbara Drive, it makes more sense to me to move it farther south, to where we "locals" call Anderson Hill, near the KPB solid waste transfer site, or alternatively, you could select a natural boundary like the Ninilchik River or Deep Creek.

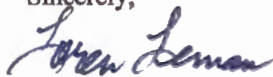
I was raised in Ninilchik. Our family home is on Lemman Lane, at Mile 134.5 Sterling Highway. In my earliest childhood years, our family's economic and health care ties were closely tied to Homer and even Seldovia, but as Soldotna developed as a government, economic, and health care center for the Peninsula, a lot of those ties shifted north.

My parents both died in 2010 while in nursing care in Soldotna, but at least during the last two decades of their lives, and probably considerably longer than that, nearly all of their medical care was in Soldotna. The two times I remember them needing to be transported by ambulance, they were taken to the hospital in Soldotna.

Although Carolyn and I own property in Ninilchik, we no longer live there, except for several weeks during the summer when we are there to operate our family fishing business. Most of our economic and health care ties while on the Peninsula are in Ninilchik, Soldotna and Kenai. We enjoy Homer and the many friends we have in that beautiful community, and also want its hospital to be financially stable. I have very fond memories of the loving care it provided my grandmother Irene Lemman during her last years with us.

When we see shifting demographics, it makes sense to reevaluate where the boundary is. This one comes down to fairness—and allocation of revenues on the basis of actual use. The Clam Gulch tower boundary is clearly too far north and should be moved. While doing that it makes sense to me to include most of Ninilchik in the Central Peninsula service area.

Sincerely,


Loren Lemman

From: Milli Martin [<mailto:millimom37@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 3:44 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>
Subject: comment for tonights meeting re: 2028-16

Mr/. Wayne Ogle, President and Members
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

Re: Ord. 2018-16

Dear President Ogle and Assembly Members,

I respectfully request you not just postpone this ordinance, but vote NO, It is a very ill advised effort to move a Service Area boundary and this ordinance needs to be roundly defeated. I appreciate Mr. Bagley's efforts to change the boundary north, however, this is still ill advised. Property owners who now live in the current Service Area have voted to approve bonds to South Peninsula Hospital Capital Projects. The loss of that income will be devastating to the hospital.

As was made clear at the public hearing in Ninilchick, the residents appreciate the clinic that South Peninsula Hospital operates there, and I note that 1200 residents do go south for services at the South peninsula Hospital.

To change the boundary of a Service Area is not a wise thing to do, when this was established, it had the support of all voters and that needs to be respected by the Assembly.

Again, I implore you to please vote NO on orderinance 2018-16.

Thank you.

Milli Martin
P.O. Box 2652
Homer, AK 99603

From: Kate Finn [<mailto:hundredthmonk21@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2018 4:23 PM
To: G_Notify_AssemblyClerk <G_Notify_AssemblyClerk@kpb.us>; Hibbert, Brent <bhibbert@kpb.us>; Smalley, Hal <HSmalley@kpb.us>; Ogle, Wayne <wogle@kpb.us>; Bagley, Dale <dalebagley@kpb.us>; Blakeley, Norm <NBlakeley@kpb.us>; Carpenter, Kenn <KCarpenter@kpb.us>; Fischer, Paul <pfischer@kpb.us>; Cooper, Kelly <kellycooper@kpb.us>; Dunne, Willy <WDunne@kpb.us>
Subject: Boundary Lines between SPH and CPGH

Dear Assembly members,

Thank you for your hard work, BUT, do you really want to:

- 1- Reduce financial support of SPH by \$400,000 and truly threatening the sustainability of it??
- 2- Take away Primary Health Care services (OB-GYN, pre-natal, well-baby exams, ultrasound services and x-ray interpretation, etc) from the Community of Ninilchik, when CPGH has not shown any interest in picking

up what SPH must leave behind if this boundary changes??? The Niniichik Village Tribe and Traditional Council are on record opposing this change.

3- Set the precedent that service area boundaries can be re-drawn each year?? That unstable future planning will have a strong negative impact on the ability to attract professional personnel and other service providers. Again, is THAT your intention??

4- User fees are user fees they are not **mill rates**. They are a citizen's contribution to health care/education/roads etc. for all borough residents. This is kind of reminding me of the OLD argument, that if people in the Yukon-Kuskokwim villages wanted plumbing/better education etc, then they should move to anchorage. They just happen to live in the wrong part of the state to be included in Alaska residents rights and benefits. Really is that the kind of message you are sending??

Truly they must be better ways to gather enough money to run both hospitals in extremely high quality ways. I heard that the CPGH has spread out around the core hospital area, thus taking away significant private property tax revenue———maybe that needs to be remedied by bringing at least some of the outlying services back into the hospital. Also i know that this is usually an unpopular suggestion, BUT, as a Senior Citizen who benefits from the Seniors property tax break, i will happily take a decrease in that break. As i understand it now the break goes all the way up to \$350,000. Let's bring it down to say \$200,000 or \$250,000, so that we seniors pay for hospital access, education for all kids, good roads, police etc. We may be old, but we are not stingy or stupid. We more than the younger generations, know that one pays for what one gets/uses/has. We have been and continue to be participators in our Republic!!!

I guess i really misunderstood. I thought that the Borough Assembly was actually interested in all the citizens of the borough. It seems that it is a constituent affair. In that case maybe we need some borough "Residents At Large" to join the Assembly as voting members. Maybe they could provide a more overall and balanced approach to benefiting all the citizen of the Borough.

Please stop this reconfiguration of Hospital Service Area boundary lines!! Do the right thing——all residents need services!

Thank You,

Kate Finn

40 year resident of Alaska (26 of those as a Kenai Pen. Borough property owner).
235-5329

Your Name: Stuart Schmutzler

Your Email: alpinestu@gmail.com

Subject: SPH service area change

Message:

Quality, affordable healthy care is essential for the well being of society. The costs required should be shared by all. I believe the borough should contribute to the funding of all of the health care facilities within the borough, rather than requiring each community to provide for their own. If someone should require medical care while outside of their home turf, they would appreciate an available facility. Local control should remain with each facility

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

From: Ella May Cooper- Waldron RN [<mailto:fwaldron@acsalaska.net>]

Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2018 10:22 PM

To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>

Subject: Comment on Ordinance 2018-16 please forward to assembly members

I would like to testify in favor of ordinance 2018-16 to move the hospital boundary south. I have lived in the area ten miles north of Ninilchik for thirty eight years and have paid my share of South peninsula hospital tax. During that time I have myself used Soldotna hospital numerous times and Homer hospital only once and that one time was because I was injured while working down there. They are both fine hospitals but Soldotna is closer with better roads. It is not fair for me to pay for a hospital that is less convenient. My daughter was born in Soldotna, I have been treated there, my dear mother in law passed there. We have always been professionally treated with compassion in our time of need at Soldotna hospital. Let Seldovia join the Homer service area, it is more convenient for them.
Franklin Waldron mile 126.8 Sterling Hwy