

**GENERAL
TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Rick Boyles, Secretary-Treasurer

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June 8, 2018

VIA Email assemblyclerk@kpb.us
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 N Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

RECEIVED
JUN 11 2018
Borough Clerk's Office
Kenai Peninsula Borough

Re: Vote NO on Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2018-16

Dear Assembly Members:

On behalf of the four hundred and fifty (450) Teamsters Local 959 members that we, the Union, represent at South Peninsula Hospital, Inc. (SPH) in Homer, Alaska, we ask that you vote NO on Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2018-16 which proposes to change the service area boundaries. As drafted, this ordinance would negatively impact the Homer community as well as the outer communities the Hospital services, including Ninilchik.

Teamsters Local 959 has represented the employees at the Hospital since 1990. We have experienced a growth in the size and services offered by SPH. The Hospital employees are some of the smartest, brightest and extremely motivated employees you will see anywhere. They are dedicated to the work they do, providing high quality care to the patients they service on the Acute Care side and the Residents they provide for on the Long Term Care side. The employees at SPH have good paying jobs with retirement and health benefits. They own homes, pay taxes, participate in community activities, their kids and grandkids attend the surrounding schools. They also enjoy their time recreating in the area. Many of our members who work at the Hospital or clinics also live in the outer communities, some as far away as Ninilchik, AK.

Over the years, SPH has worked hard to provide much needed health care in areas outside of Homer, such as the Ninilchik Community Clinic. Currently, the community receives prenatal and newborn visits, ob/gyn visits, radiology services, as well as ultrasound monthly clinics. If this ordinance were to pass, all of those services would go away, leaving a negative impact on the community, and a loss of jobs and healthcare services.

In addition, passage of this ordinance would mean a reduction in SPH's Capital budget of at least \$220,000 and more than \$447,856 once the bond debt has been retired. For SPH to recoup the loss would mean billing patients over \$24 million. In a small

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community, that is almost impossible to do. The financial loss to the Hospital would mean the elimination of services to the community and potential loss of hundreds of jobs. With SPH being the largest employer in Homer, this would have a far reaching effect on every small business in the community, including loss of jobs and revenue.

Protect jobs, protect SPH, protect all the communities, and assure all patients receive the much needed services they deserve, please vote NO on Ordinance 2018-16. Your time and consideration regarding this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959



Barbara Huff Tuckness
President/Negotiator
Business Representative

BHT:jk