

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Dale Bagley, Assembly President
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dale Bagley, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Wayne Ogle, Assembly Member *W. O.*

DATE: April 24, 2015

RE: Ordinance 2015-11, An Ordinance Establishing the Nikiski Law Enforcement Service Area (Ogle)

In the wake of a recent increase in burglaries and other crimes against persons, property and the community, the Nikiski Community Action Group held a number of community meetings beginning in September 2014 to identify actions that could be taken to address this problem. A committee was then formed under the auspices of the Nikiski Community Council to identify problems and potential solutions. It met almost weekly from October 2014 through January 2015 and recommended that a law enforcement service area be formed in Nikiski with the same boundaries as the Nikiski Fire Service Area.

The committee developed this ordinance with assistance from borough staff. This ordinance provides that law enforcement services may be provided either by contract with an outside organization or by borough service area employees, as approved by the assembly after considering service area board recommendations and public comments. Approval by the voters in the proposed service area is required for this service area to become operational.

The service area board would have five members. If the chief law enforcement officer is a borough employee, he or she would be appointed by the mayor from a list of candidates recommended by the service area board. This is the same selection process used in other service areas with a borough-employed director. The ordinance provides that the mill rate shall not exceed 1.5 mills unless an increase is approved by the assembly in the budgetary process.

Borough code requires the assembly to fix the time and place for a public hearing to be held within the boundaries of the proposed service area to consider the necessity for the service area. The assembly president is required to appoint the members of the special committee of the assembly to hold the public hearing. The committee is required to provide a report of its findings and recommendations to the assembly at a regular meeting before the assembly's action on the service area.

Your consideration is appreciated.