

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

## Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Blaine Gilman, Assembly President  
Brent Johnson, Vice President

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Blaine Gilman, Assembly President  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

**FROM:** Brent Johnson, Assembly Member (BJ) for B.A.

**DATE:** June 9, 2016

**RE:** Ordinance 2016-25, An Ordinance Amending KPB 2.40.010 to Reduce Planning Commission Membership (Johnson)

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The apportionment for the planning commissioners sets out and impacts the number of planning commissioners needed to maintain the proper proportion of planning commissioner members from within and outside the cities in the borough. AS 29.40.020 (a) provides:

“Each first and second class borough shall establish a planning commission consisting of five residents unless a greater number is required by ordinance. Commission *membership shall be apportioned so that the number of members from home rule and first class cities reflects the proportion of borough population residing in home rule and first class cities* located in the borough ...” (emphasis added).

The area outside of cities in this borough is much greater than the area inside of cities and therefore, population grows faster outside of cities. This is the paramount reason that the KPB planning commission membership was raised in 2002 by ordinance 2001-29 from 11 members to 13 members. Today, with the borough code requirement that each city have a representative on the planning commission, 15 members are needed to best comply with AS 29.40.020.

To avoid this ever-increasing number of planning commissioners, a reduction in the number of commissioners from cities is needed. Each planning commissioner represents the

whole borough and reviews land related regulations throughout the borough; especially plats, vacations and material sites. There is little justification for the apportionment described in AS 29.40.020, but changing state statute would be difficult and time consuming.

In 1992, led by Assembly Member Frank Mullen, the assembly body was reduced from 16 members to the current nine members. That reduction in government, though very unpopular with a number of assembly members in 2002, stands as a good example of efficient legislation. I believe the planning commission will operate very effectively with a nine-member body.

Your consideration is appreciated.