

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Bill Elam, Assembly Member *BE*

COPY: Peter A. Micciche, Mayor
Robert Ruffner, Planning Director

DATE: April 20, 2023

RE: 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 the Seat Reduction (Elam)

The Kenai Peninsula Borough ("Borough") is a second class borough with a population of 58,799 as of the April 1, 2020 U.S. Census totals.¹ In 2022, the Alaska State Legislature amended AS 29.40.020(a) to provide the Borough flexibility to apportion its Planning Commission seats in a manner that the Assembly deems appropriate.

Presently, there are nine Assembly members and fourteen Planning Commission members. There do not appear to be any other planning commissions in the State of Alaska with so many members. Additionally, Borough code requires the Borough to compensate its Planning Commission members at the rate of \$175.00 per regular or special meeting attended. (The chairperson is compensated at the rate of \$200.00 per regular or special meeting, and Planning Commission members serving on the plat committee receive an additional \$25.00.)

Aligning the number of Planning Commission member seats to be consistent with the number of Assembly member seats will reduce the aggregate cost of compensation the Borough must pay to its Planning Commission members by approximately \$40,698. The addition of a code provision for elimination of a Planning Commission member seat will allow for an orderly and fair process when Planning Commission member seats are consolidated.

Your consideration is appreciated.

¹ Per the State of Alaska, the Borough's population estimate as of January 1, 2023, is 60,017.