

## KPB Ord 2019-23 RE: Service Area Boards Appointed instead of Elected

My name is Grace Merkes and I live at 38300 Stans St. in Sterling Alaska.

I am writing in regard to Ord. 2019-22. In the #2 Whereas; it notes that this borough is one of the few, if not the only, with elected service area boards. I say good for us! After all. It is the American way, to recognize that a service area, that is approved by the voters in their respective area, with the stipulation that there is an elected board, that is why voters approve service area. They believe they will be able to vote for people to represent them. Again, I say good for us. It's a basic premise of our country to vote & should have the constitutional right to vote. They are paying the taxes for that service area, they should have the right to vote for whom will represent them, not have the Mayor and the Assembly make that decision.

Also according to Whereas #1 in this ordinance, there are 12 service area boards and 7 of them are elected. It appears that all of the 7 service area boards were initially elected by the voters in the service area. Here's my suggestion. Have the next election cycle ask the voters in those 7 service areas if they want to change from elected to appointed. If they approve having appointed boards during an election, then go forward with eliminating elected board members. You will have appropriately asked the initiating voters in that service area about changing their taxation representation from elected to appointed. Waiting one election cycle to determine how the people in each service area reacts to an appointed vs elected board is minimal impact and would go a long way to instilling confidence in voters with this Borough Assembly.

Please do not pass this Ordinance and rather place an advisory vote before the service areas for the next regular election. After all there is no rush to take voters rights away from them. I think the task force was tasked with the question of "how do we get a better election turn out", not "how do we take away voter choices". Thank you for considering this.

Grace Merkes

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

October 7, 2019

Sent Electronically to  
[JBlankenship@kpb.us](mailto:JBlankenship@kpb.us)

Subject,

Ordinance 2019 - 23

An Ordinance Amending KPB Titles 2, 4, and 16 regarding Service Areas to provide that All Kenai Peninsula Borough Service Area Boards are Appointed Instead of Elected (Dunne, Hibbert)

And

Ordinance 2019 - 24

An Ordinance Adopting KPB 20.80, Subdivision Private Streets and Gated Subdivisions (Mayor)

Dear Assembly Members,

We strongly oppose moving forward on these ordinances today and would hope you postpone until staff has adequate time to analyze the information they have been gathering.

Respectfully,

Robert Archibald

And

Roberta Highland

PO Box 2460

Homer, AK. 99603