



## NORTH PENINSULA RECREATION SERVICE AREA

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October 28, 2019

Dear KPB Assembly Members:

The North Peninsula Recreation Service Area unanimously opposes Ordinance 2019-23. North Peninsula Recreation Service Area strongly recommends maintaining the voting rights of the citizens of our Nikiski Service Areas.

In a memo generated August 22, 2019 to Assembly President Ogle from Assembly persons Hibbert and Dunne, through Kenai Peninsula Borough Clerk Johni Blankenship titled:

***Ordinance 2019-23, 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)***

It has been presented, and continued in the Joint Resolution 2019-47 dated September 3, 2019, that the original purpose and principles behind the creation of the established Election Stakeholder Group ("ESG") [Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly adoption ("KPB") Resolution 2019-006] was to:

***"....research[ed] ways to increase voter participation by developing sustainable **election processes** that **maximize accessibility** and **inclusivity** ...."***

However, the title of Ordinance 2019-23 alone, establishes that the focus of election processes that would maximize the appropriate concern and attention for accessibility and inclusivity has been interchanged with a direct objective of removing the representative **ELECTED** voter proceedings from the unincorporated areas within our Borough. At no time is it appropriate for a select group of predominantly government service stakeholders to attempt to remove and reorganize legitimate local elected representative government in the Alaska Constitutionally provided Service Areas.

This select Election Stakeholder Group members are primarily representing incorporated districts with established voter elected representative process. Most of the members of the ESG are elected/former elected reps, or locally government employed. The unincorporated areas within our Borough were either underrepresented or not represented at all by the ESG, while the major findings of recommendation #5 within ESG Report, most greatly affect the unincorporated Service Areas and would potentially have the largest financial related impact in the services provided.

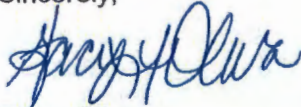
The Human Rights Commission call to maximize accessibility and inclusivity seems to have become a diminished issue by the aim of moving Ordinance 2019-23 forward.

Efficiency and Conservation of Public Resources has been cited as a reason for the necessity to Amend **KPB Titles 2, 4, and 16**, however no evidence or fiscal note is attached to Ordinance 2019-23 providing supporting data. Additionally, the same report has the ESG recommending the Assembly appropriate funding for an extensive education and outreach campaign. No data is provided or attached in a fiscal note as substantiation that this simultaneously conserves Public Resources. Voter rights and citizen participation in government is a right and responsibility to be upheld rather than compromised for the convenience of those government employee's whose very job it is to protect the integrity of the legitimate election process.

The design of voter elected representation within our service areas is to ensure that our local government power is derived from the votes of the people in a bottom-up approach. This safeguards the future of our community from the top-down centralized approach that Mayoral appointed boards offer. Local representative government, by design is not necessarily meant to be "efficient" for the local government specialist. The sovereign responsibility of oversight of elections by the KPB clerk's office is a difficult and cumbersome task and would not be served well if reduced to a convenience.

All efforts should be made toward providing ADA approved accessible voting equipment while maintaining the integrity of our local election process. Governmental participation starts at the local level, and the structure of our local service area boards provide the opportunity for citizens of all ages, race, and belief systems to actively participate in the Constitutionally established process.

Sincerely,



Stacy Oliva  
North Peninsula Recreation Service Area Board Chair

Cc: KPB Mayor Charlie Pierce