

Nikiski Fire Department
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October 30, 2019

Mayor Charlie Pierce & KPB Assembly Members
Kenai Peninsula Borough
144 N Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Mayor Pierce & Members of the KPB Assembly,

The Nikiski Fire Service Board sat for a regular scheduled meeting on November 9th, on the agenda was Johni Blankenship (KPB Clerk) to discuss and explain Ordinance 2019-23, Amending KPB Titles 2,4 and 16 regarding Service Areas to Provide that All Kenai Peninsula are Appointed Instead of Elected, a proposed ordinance now being considered before the Assembly. After carefully considering the Ordinance and presentation, NFSAB respectfully and unanimously opposes Ordinance 2019-23 as proposed. It is the belief of the Board that our free election process is a fundamental and critically important component of our democratic government, and any reduction of that right, on any level, is a loss to the very foundation of our great country. It is our opinion that 'voting' enhances the borough's open government policy and gives the citizens a positive opinion of local government. In addition to those thoughts as expressed by NFSAB members, we highly encourage the KPB Assembly to step forward and procure the ADA-compliant equipment necessary to maintain and sustain our voting rights and obligations for the future. Frankly, we see it as a small price to pay to maintain one of our core liberty's we hold sacred as Americans and we are disappointed that this issue even is seen as having merit toward an attempt to reduce our inalienable rights within our free election process.

The Nikiski Fire Service Area Board members know they were given a huge responsibility being voted in. The board members weigh all issues regarding budget and operational needs. Our goal as a Board has been to assess these issues, prepare and address these concerns and bring a viable solution to both the Mayor and Assembly. This input is meant to support both the Borough and citizens of the area. We feel an appointed Board negates this positive approach and produces apathy for those living in our service area. It is our intent to represent the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the citizens of the Nikiski Fire Service Area in a positive, professional way.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to express the Board's opinion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Cialek". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mark Cialek
Nikiski Fire Service Area Board Chair