



# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

## ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 479-2016

Meeting Date: July 12, 2016

1 **FROM: MAYOR**

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3 **SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE**  
4 **CHAPTER 2.40, COMMUNITY COUNCILS, TO MERGE THE**  
5 **BOUNDARIES OF THE MID-HILLSIDE AND THE HILLSIDE EAST**  
6 **COMMUNITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS AS ONE TO ESTABLISH THE**  
7 **HILLSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL DISTRICT.**  
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10 On April 11, 2016, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) held a public  
11 hearing on a proposed boundary amendment to merge the Mid-Hillside and  
12 Hillside East Community Councils into a new entity known as the Hillside  
13 Community Council. Based on their review and findings, the Commission  
14 approved the amendment.  
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### 16 Background

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18 The Anchorage Municipal Charter, at the founding of the Municipality in 1975,  
19 established community councils—granting official recognition and representation  
20 to neighborhood associations in government and local affairs. Community  
21 councils are intended to represent actual neighborhoods in the Municipality so that  
22 people can identify the part of the city they belong and relate to and organize as a  
23 community.  
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25 The Planning Department is responsible for recommending adjustments to  
26 community council district boundaries and the number of districts every ten years.  
27 Since the establishment of community councils 41 years ago, several additional  
28 community councils have been added and some minor boundary changes have  
29 been made.  
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### 31 2015-2016 Boundary Review Request

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33 In December 2015, Planning staff received a resolution from the presidents of the  
34 Mid-Hillside and Hillside East Community Councils dated January 28, 2015,  
35 requesting that the Assembly approve a merger of both community councils. The  
36 resolution explained that neither community council has been active in quite some  
37 time, that the bylaws are not in conformance with Assembly Ordinance  
38 AO 2014-3(S) approved on February 11, 2014, and a merger of the two  
39 community councils would provide better representation for the members of those  
40 councils.

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2 In consultation with the Municipal Ombudsman's and the Clerk's Offices on  
3 December 21, 2015, Planning staff contacted delegates of the Federation of  
4 Community Councils to review and generate community discussion and comments  
5 about the proposed merger. The results of these discussions resulted in a  
6 recommendation to move the merger forward for approval by the Municipality.

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8 During the public review period prior to the public hearing before the Planning and  
9 Zoning Commission, no agency comments were received in opposition to the  
10 proposed boundary amendment. Six municipal and state agencies provided a  
11 response of "no comment" and the Airport Heights Community Council sent an  
12 email conveying its unanimous support. The Planning Department found no  
13 compelling reason to oppose the merger of the two community councils into a new  
14 entity known as the Hillside Community Council.

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16 On April 11, 2016, the Planning and Zoning Commission held the advertised public  
17 hearing and took action. No members of the public testified against the proposed  
18 merger. Based on its review and findings, the Commission approved the  
19 proposed boundary amendment to merge the Mid-Hillside and Hillside East  
20 Community Councils. (See Exhibit A, Planning and Zoning Commission  
21 Resolution No. 2016-018.) The staff packet is also attached for your information.  
22 (See Exhibit B, PZC Case No. 2016-0039.)

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24 Recommendation

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26 The Administration concurs with the findings and action of the Planning and  
27 Zoning Commission and recommends adoption of the proposed Mid-Hillside and  
28 Hillside East Community Councils Boundary Amendment.

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30 **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**

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32 Prepared by: Jon Cecil, Senior Planner  
33 Planning Department  
34 Approved by: Hal H. Hart, Planning Director  
35 Concur Christopher M. Schutte, Director  
36 Office of Economic & Community Development  
37 Concur: Lance Wilber, Director  
38 Office of Management & Budget  
39 Concur: William D. Falsey, Municipal Attorney  
40 Concur: Michael K. Abbott, Municipal Manager  
41 Respectfully submitted: Ethan A. Berkowitz, Mayor

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44 Attachments: Exhibit A, Planning and Zoning Commission Resolution 2016-018  
45 Exhibit B, Planning Staff Packet for PZC Case 2016-0039