



RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC)
A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 / Anchorage, AK 99503

William Paganan, President
Carry the Cure
1040 Beylund Loop
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January 23, 2022

Dear Mr. Paganan,

Thank you for attending our December 9th, 2021, Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) meeting to request our concurrence with your efforts to rename the Suicide Peaks in Chugach State Park adjacent to our RCCC area. We appreciated the information you shared and, as you heard in comments both expressed and entered into the chat, there was much support for erasing the tragic aura that the current name embodies. There was also strong concurrence with the proposal to rename the peaks with a more culturally appropriate name from the language of the early Dena'ina Athabascan inhabitants. As one of our members noted, "It's an unfamiliar spelling, but we can learn it. We strengthen our appreciation of this place and its history by helping to bring Dena'ina words back into common usage."

By a vote of 23 yays, zero nays, and 2 abstentions the RCCC supports your efforts to rename the Suicide Peaks, and to rename them in the Dena'ina language. You have proposed that name be North and South Yuyanq' Ch'ex.

After your presentation, one of our members who has served on the U.S. Board of Geographic Names was interested in ensuring you were connecting with all the appropriate entities to successfully and officially rename the Suicide Peaks. That resulted in our receiving the attached letter and Fact Sheet from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Alaska Chapter which provides further support for your efforts.

We thank you for reminding us of the too prevalent issue of suicide in Alaska and for working to change the name of a beautiful local landmark to one reminiscent of both our area's cultural heritage, and beauty rather than tragedy. We wish you continued success with your "Committed to Life" program.

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council

Michelle Turner, Co-chair
Rabbit Creek Community Council