



## Rabbit Creek Community Council

1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Ste. 100, Anchorage, AK 99503



July 4, 2016

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage  
PO BOX 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519  
Sent VIA Email

RE: Stewart Homestead Road Solution

Dear Mayor Berkowitz,

By a unanimous vote by the Board of the community council at our meeting of June 9, the Rabbit Creek Community Council approved this letter outlining our wishes for a solution to the Stewart Homestead Road dispute. We want to emphasize the divisiveness the conflict over this road has caused and the intensity of opinion surrounding it. We look to your office and the Municipality as a whole to share our urgency in finding a unifying resolution to this issue agreeable to all parties.

First, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank Mr. Falsey and his office for their advocacy on behalf of securing public access for residents of the area. We would like to see this permanent access achieved in a fashion mutually agreeable to all impacted parties and without litigation.

That being said, this topic has highlighted several additional issues surrounding liability, park access, neighborhood disturbance, and infrastructure, among others. For instance, it is unclear who – or what governmental entity – should be liable for any public access or other easements. Additionally, despite our council's proximity to Chugach State Park and a Hillside District Plan policy to provide that access, we remain without any established, legal access to it, leaving only informal access points generating negative externalities borne by area residents: cars blocking driveways and roads, litter, pet waste, lack of maintenance, and actual and potential loitering and other unsavory activity. The complete solution to Stewart Homestead Road issue, thus, requires further investigation.

We, therefore, recommend the creation of a taskforce to develop a permanent and global solution to these issues and to review development of potential access points via easements and HLB land in Potter Valley and Bear Valley. These points should provide appropriate infrastructure, maintenance, and ease of access for people of all abilities. We recommend that this taskforce minimally include representatives of: homeowners in the immediate neighborhood, trail users, relevant municipal offices and departments, Alaska state parks, this community council, and other stakeholders the Municipality deems relevant.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We hope to hear back from you before our meeting on July 14. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for any clarification.

Sincerely,

Adam S. Lees, Chair

CC: William Falsey, Municipal Attorney  
John Weddleton, Assembly – District 6  
Bill Evans, Assembly – District 6  
Susanne Fleek-Green, Office the Mayor – RCCC liaison