

3309 Spenard Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

January 24, 2003

Municipality of Anchorage
Attn: Anchorage Assembly
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650

Dear Assembly Persons:

The Spenard Community Council met on January 8, 2003 and took up the issue of Community Council District Boundaries. We voted to support a boundary as follows:

1. The south boundary to International Airport Road.
2. The east boundary to be the Seward Highway.
3. The north boundary to be Fireweed Road except for that portion from Spenard Road to Minnesota Drive. The boundary between Spenard Road and Minnesota Drive would be the north property line of the lots facing 25th Avenue.
4. The west boundary should be from the rear property line on the lots facing 25th Avenue on the North to Northern Lights Boulevard, and from Northern Lights Boulevard at Fish Creek, following the Creek to the tributary of Fish Creek from Spenard Lake, to Spenard Lake. Follow the boundary of Spenard Lake to the east taking in the private property in and around the intersection of Spenard Road and International Airport Road to include the West Coast international Inn and the National Guard Armory. This is slightly different from the P & Z recommendation as it includes the area bounded by Lake Shore Drive to Constellation Avenue, Lake Spenard and Spenard Road.

The above west boundary description is in accordance with Planning Department, Department Study Areas: Report and Recommendation study area 23. Spenard – Turnagain: Spenard Road Corridor/Fish Creek vicinity Option A and Option B. We feel that these options, as recommended by the Planning Department comply more closely with the Neighborhood Planning Principles outlined in the Departments Report.

Currently the west boundary of the Spenard Community Council is from International Airport Road following Spenard Road to the Alaska Railroad Tracks to Cook Inlet. We have agreed with Turnagain Community Council the areas of Forrest Park Drive/Huntington Park/West High School/Romig Middle School should become part of the Turnagain Community Council. We feel that these areas are more closely aligned with Turnagain Community Council in studying the Neighborhood Planning Principles than they are with the Spenard Community Council.

We also concur with Planning Staff that the boundary from Northern Lights Boulevard to International Airport Road should be changed from the current boundary to Fish Creek and the Tributary of Fish Creek to Spenard Lake. We have supported this part of the community for years and have struggled with what the west boundary should be. We feel the Planning Staff proposal 23 Option A and B is a stroke of genius and one that I wish I would have thought of. Fish Creek is extremely important to both Community Councils and to make it the dividing line will insure that both councils stay invested in it's upgrade.

The Anchorage International Airport should be part of the Spenard, Turnigain, and Sand Lake Community Councils and an entity of the whole with no internal lines drawn.

Midtown has been a portion of the Spenard Community Council since the start of Community Councils. We feel that we have adequately represented the area during that time and have instrumental in many issues in that area. The consensus of the Spenard Community Council that the area remain part of our council area. For study area 24 we therefore recommend a new option, which would be to leave midtown as part of the Spenard Community Council with the east boundary as the New Seward Highway from Fireweed Lane to International Airport Road.

It is still the desire of the Spenard Community Council to include the midtown area as part of the Spenard Community Council.

I would like to thank the Federation of Community Councils, Community Council Boundary Review Committee, the Planning Department of the Municipality of Anchorage, The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Anchorage Assembly for undertaking this process to realign and I feel ultimately strengthen the Community Council process.

Sincerely:

Thomas J. McGrath
Chair Person, Spenard Community Council