

CHUGIAK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 671350
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

May 17, 2007

TO: Distribution

SUBJECT: Resolution of Opposition to Locating the Arctic Public Safety Training Institute's Proposed Outdoor Shooting Range in Beach Lake Park

WHEREAS at the 03/15/07 Chugiak Community Council ("Council") meeting, it was reported by Gale Armstrong, the Council's Representative to the Parks & Recreation Board of Supervisors, that the Arctic Public Safety Training Institute (Arctic PSTI) recently informed the Parks & Recreation Board about its plans to construct an outdoor shooting range in Beach Lake Park. Specifically, Arctic PSTI was created as a coalition of regional local, state, federal, and private first-responder agencies in 2004. Arctic PSTI states that it has a critical need to create a dedicated, secure, outdoor gun range for training purposes. According to Arctic PSTI's concept design, dated 10/19/06, Arctic PSTI is proposing that approximately 50 acres in Beach Lake Park be dedicated to this outdoor range. The location would be adjacent to Beach Lake. Additionally, Arctic PSTI's proposed project schedule shows that the Beach Lake Outdoor Range would consist of a design phase from 3rdQ 2007 through 1stQ 2008, followed by a construction phase from 2ndQ 2008 through 4thQ 2008; and

WHEREAS, at the same 03/15/07 Council meeting, John Rodda, Eagle River-Chugiak Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Development Division Manager, stated that the proposed range would support rifle training and interactive day and night combat training, would be open 24/7, and might not be available to the public; and

WHEREAS locating the Arctic PSTI outdoor shooting range in Beach Lake Park would be a loss of readily accessible public park land and would greatly reduce enjoyment of Beach Lake Park for many citizens and recreational organizations; and

WHEREAS Beach Lake Park is a recognized park supporting dog mushing, and Arctic PSTI is proposing that dog mushing trails be built adjacent to the proposed outdoor shooting range, and many mushing dogs are gun-shy; and

WHEREAS building the Arctic PSTI outdoor shooting range in Beach Lake Park is not a recognized use according to the Beach Lake Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS a vote of the people is required to establish dedicated park land; and, therefore, a vote of the people should be required to confiscate, take, or otherwise change the allowed uses of publicly dedicated parkland; and

WHEREAS there are three military bases in the MOA and the option of utilizing military bases for Arctic PSTI's purposes was apparently not aggressively pursued by Arctic PSTI. That is, Arctic PSTI did not receive a written response to one letter sent to the bases by Arctic PSTI inquiring about possibly using base property. Arctic PSTI did not follow-up the unanswered letter with any additional written or verbal communication to the bases; and

WHEREAS there is likely Eklutna, Inc. property available for lease by Arctic PSTI that is located adjacent to existing Birchwood Recreational Shooting Park or up Eklutna Valley; and

WHEREAS the process that Arctic PSTI has used to-date for selection of a site location appears to be superficial; and

WHEREAS, at the same 03/15/07 Council meeting, Chugiak's local Assemblymembers Bill Starr and Debbie Ossiander, Planning and Zoning Commissioner Art Isham, the Council's Representative to the Parks & Recreation Board Gale Armstrong, and Chugiak Community Council Board Members were all highly concerned that they had not been previously informed of Arctic PSTI's plans; and

WHEREAS many attendees at the same 03/15/07 Council meeting stated that the public process for Arctic PSTI's project has not been followed since the project appears to be well-underway with concept designs for a single site, project schedule and budget, glossy brochures, and endorsement by several municipal departments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chugiak Community Council:

- Understands and supports the stated goal of Arctic PSTI to have a dedicated, secure, outdoor shooting range for training purposes; and
- Is currently opposed to locating the Arctic PSTI outdoor shooting range in Beach Lake Park; and
- Requests that Arctic PSTI aggressively pursue the evaluation of more appropriate sites; and
- Requests a thorough evaluation of the appropriateness of Beach Lake Park as a possible site for such an outdoor shooting range including an impact study on Beach Lake Park and its users and evaluation of alternate sites; and
- Requests acknowledgement that the municipal community councils need to be part of the process; and
- Requests acknowledgement that a vote of the people would be required prior to locating the Arctic PSTI outdoor shooting range in Beach Lake Park.

Unanimously passed by the Chugiak Community Council.

Signed: _____

David Baldwin
President
Chugiak Community Council
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Phone: 688-0123

Distribution:

State of Alaska:

The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom, Alaska Representative
The Honorable Fred Dyson, Alaska Senator
The Honorable Charlie Huggins, Alaska Senator
The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Alaska Representative

Municipality of Anchorage:

The Honorable Mark Begich, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage
Dennis LeBlanc, Municipal Manager
Anchorage Municipal Assembly
Anchorage Police Department
Anchorage Fire Department

Arctic Public Safety Training Institute Contact List

Rise Alaska, LLC

Cc. Birchwood Community Council
Eagle River Community Council
Eagle River Valley Community Council
Eklutna Valley Community Council
South Fork Community Council

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