

Fairview Community Council Resolution 2015-02

A resolution relating to Service Charges and Municipal Tax Relief Paid by Solid Waste Service Customers

Whereas Fairview and several other neighborhoods are within the Solid Waste Services Area; and

Whereas on April 28th, 2015 the Municipality of Anchorage administration proposed appropriating \$5,000,000 from Solid Waste Services to the general fund of the Municipality for city-wide taxpayer relief; and

Whereas the Anchorage Assembly failed to approve the move of those funds; and

Whereas the administration and members of the Assembly developed a compromise to move \$2,000,000 from Solid Waste Services to the general fund for tax payer relief; and

Whereas Mayor Sullivan is quoted in the Alaska Dispatch News article published on May 4, 2015, titled "Assembly, Mayor compromise to nudge down Anchorage property tax payments" as stating that Solid Waste Services "will still have a surplus of \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000, about three times what it should be"; and

Whereas Mayor Sullivan is quoted in the same article as stating "the Solid Waste Service Utility has an abundance of cash right now. We felt it was appropriate to return that money to the taxpayer because the taxpayers own the utility. Other utilities pay a dividend; Solid Waste Services doesn't, so this was a way we could have them contribute to the general fund"; and

Whereas other Municipally-owned utilities return excess income to rate payers through credits and dividends; and

Whereas the Solid Waste Service service area contains some of the lowest income neighborhoods in Anchorage; and

Whereas the rates being collected from Solid Waste Services customers is creating millions of dollars of excess revenue; and

Whereas the Assembly and the Administration have essentially redistributed wealth from Solid Waste Services customers to the general taxpayer of Anchorage by running an excessive surplus;

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Fairview Community Council deems this overpayment and redistribution as an unfair tax upon a minority of residents of the Municipality of Anchorage; and

Be it further resolved that the Fairview Community Council expresses to the Assembly that the rate and fee payers of Solid Waste Services are being overcharged; and

Be it further resolved that the Fairview Community Council requests a rate and fee reduction for trash and landfill service from Solid Waste Services rather than being overcharged and having our payments be sent to the general fund and redistributed as tax relief to the general taxpayer; and

Be it further resolved that the Fairview Community Council requests a reimbursement of service fees to Solid Waste Services customers that was appropriated as tax relief.

Approved on June 11, 2015 by a vote of 15 Ayes and 0 Nays.


Christopher Constant, President


Daniel Duque, Secretary


SS Klevin, Acting Secretary