

Birchwood Community Council
Chugiak, Alaska 99567
birchwoodcouncil@gmail.com

Resolution 002-2014 requesting the Municipal Assembly delay action on AO2014-3, Community Council Ordinance.

At its regularly scheduled public meeting on January 22, 2014, the Birchwood Community Council membership, by resolution duly made and approved, expressed concerns about the proposed AO 2014-3, AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING 10 ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.40 PROVIDING FOR THE 11 ESTABLISHMENT, RECOGNITION, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO 12 COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN REFERENCE TO CHARTER SECTION 8.01.

While the council believes that the proposed ordinance is a well-intentioned effort to provide guidance and structure to Community Councils, we believe the proposed ordinance is too prescriptive, and goes beyond helping community councils to function, instead impairing their ability to be responsive to local context. We believe the proposed ordinance should be shortened to include only those sections necessary to ensure Councils can operate legally and responsibly.

While we recognize that those crafting this ordinance tried to solicit input, almost all the relevant meetings were during the work week, limiting the ability of those most affected by the proposed changes to fully understand the proposals and provide thoughtful comments. Accordingly, councils need more time to review this proposal, and identify what sections are necessary and helpful, and which should be eliminated.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Assembly not vote on this ordinance at their January 28 meeting, but rather table the ordinance for a few months to allow Councils time to review, provide comments, and recommend changes.

Respectfully,

Jill Flanders-Crosby, Co-Chair
Barbara Trost, Co-Chair

Cc:

Community Council Committee, attn.: Chair
Assemblypersons: Amy Demboski and Bill Starr
Chugiak Community Council
Eagle River Community Council

Eagle River Valley Community Council
South Fork Community Council
Eklutna Valley Community Council