

Birchwood Community Council

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Birchwood Community Council Resolution 22-01-01

Whereas the Municipality of Anchorage’s proposed AO 2022-14 refers to the “Eagle River and Chugiak area,” and AO 2022-18 refers to voters in the “Birchwood, Chugiak, Eagle River, Eklutna, and Peters Creek area”, referring in both cases to the same area;

Whereas the area referenced includes the community council areas of Eagle River, Eagle River Valley, South Fork, Birchwood, Chugiak, and Eklutna Valley, referred to in the rest of this resolution as “Eagle River/Chugiak” or “the area”;

Whereas the Anchorage Assembly is considering holding an advisory vote by all voters in the Municipality on whether Eagle River/Chugiak should detach from the Anchorage Municipality and form a separate local government (AO 2022-14*);

Whereas the Anchorage Assembly is also considering an advisory vote by voters in Eagle River/Chugiak on whether the area should study its potential to detach from the Municipality of Anchorage and establish a separate local government unit (AO 2022-18**);

Whereas none of the six community councils in the Eagle River area have requested either a vote or a study;

Whereas funds of the Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation service area may only be spent on parks and recreation uses, and not broader questions of governance and taxation; and

Whereas the funds of the Chugiak Birchwood Eagle River Rural Road Service Area may only be spent on road maintenance in the service area, and not on broader questions of governance and taxation; and

Whereas, considering the previous two points, the voters advising on a study have no tax capacity to fund such a study separate from the broader Anchorage Municipality general fund;

Whereas a vote, even advisory, on detachment should be taken when voters have access to reliable information on the effects of such action; and

Whereas the voters have had little reliable and unbiased analysis to assess the impact of such detachment on taxation, education and local government operations, and

Whereas voters at this time have not expressed through their community councils, a desire for such information;

Therefore, the Birchwood Community Council opposes both ordinances, and requests that the Anchorage Assembly drop both Ordinances and not proceed with either at this time.

Signed

Debbie Ossiander or Matt Cruickshank

Co-chairs

Birchwood Community Council

2021-2022 board: Debbie Ossiander, Co-Chair; Matt Cruickshank, Co- Chair, Road Board rep;
Val Jokela, Secretary and Treasurer; Gretchen Wehmhoff: Secretary for Publicity;
Barbara Trost, Parks and Rec rep; Patty Friend, Member at large

Birchwood Community Council

Reference Documents:

AO 2022-14* [Ordinance No. AO 2022-14, an ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of the Municipality of Anchorage an advisory ballot proposition on the question of whether the area of Eagle River, Chugiak, and Eklutna should detach from the Municipality of Anchorage and form a separate local government, Assembly Vice-Chair Constant. P.H. 1-25-2022. \(Addendum.\)](#) (Public Hearing Jan. 19, 2022)

[Assembly Memo on AO 2022-14](#)

AO 2022-18**[Ordinance No. AO 2022-18, an ordinance of the Anchorage Assembly submitting to the qualified voters of the Birchwood, Chugiak, Eagle River, Eklutna, and Peters Creek area at the Regular Municipal Election on April 5, 2022, an advisory ballot proposition on whether the area should research and study the potential to detach from the Municipality of Anchorage and establish a separate local government unit, Assembly Members Kennedy and Allard. P.H. 1-25-2022. \(Addendum.\)](#) (Public Hearing Jan. 19, 2022)

[Assembly Memo on AO 2022-18](#)