

Huffman O'Malley Community Council (HOCC)
Anchorage, AK 99516
HOCCPresident@gmail.com

September 01, 2024

Alaska Regional Hospital
Attn: South Anchorage ER Support
2801 Debarr Road
Anchorage, AK 99508

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express the Huffman O'Malley Community Council's unanimous support for the establishment of an Emergency Room (ER) in South Anchorage. This addition is critical for the community due to its strategic location, proximity to Alaska Highway 1 (Seward Highway), and the increasing need for emergency services in the area.

The Seward Highway is one of the busiest and most hazardous roads in Alaska. According to data from the Alaska Department of Transportation, this highway consistently records a high number of accidents, many of which are severe and life-threatening. The current travel distance to reach an emergency facility from the southern regions of Anchorage can be lengthy, especially during harsh weather conditions, significantly reducing the chances of positive outcomes for those in need of urgent care.

A South Anchorage ER would not only provide a much-needed resource to manage these emergencies more effectively but would also play a crucial role in reducing the overwhelming burden on existing hospitals across the municipality. With the increasing population in South Anchorage and the surrounding areas, the demand for emergency services has grown, further justifying the need for a dedicated facility in this part of the city.

Establishing an ER in South Anchorage could literally be a matter of life and death. The ability to provide immediate triage and emergency services in closer proximity to accident sites or medical emergencies would enhance the survival rate of patients. National studies show that reducing the time it takes to reach emergency care can decrease mortality rates by up to 25%. In our specific context, where winter conditions and challenging terrain can delay transport, having an accessible ER could save countless lives each year.

Additionally, a South Anchorage ER would help distribute the patient load more evenly across the city's medical facilities, ensuring that resources at main hospitals are not stretched too thin and that all residents of Anchorage receive timely and adequate care.

The community's need for this facility is undeniable, and HOCC strongly supports this project and encourages Alaska Regional Hospital to establish an ER in South Anchorage as a priority project. The impact on public safety and health cannot be overstated. This addition will serve as a critical asset to both the local community and those traveling through the area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//

Rachel Ries

HOCC President

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