



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Fish and Game**

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
Southcentral Region

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January 28, 2025

Dear Anchorage Assembly,

Subject: Government Hill Community Council area becoming a Secure Trash Zone (STZ)

On behalf of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), we are writing in support of the Government Hill Community Council (CC) resolution to become a Secure Trash Zone. In 2019, a secure trash zone designation was added into the Municipality Code to allow for areas with high wildlife conflict as identified by ADF&G to be mandated to use bear-resistant trash receptacles, including all tipper carts, dumpsters, and stationary trash cans at private residences, businesses, and community areas. Since 2019, two communities (Girdwood and Eklutna) have come forward with resolutions to the Anchorage Assembly to voluntarily become secure trash zones, which were both accepted and passed. More recently, in September of 2024, the Glen Alps community also put forth a resolution to become a STZ to help mitigate issues with bears accessing trash and help lower the risk associated with potential human-wildlife interactions.

The Government Hill CC area shares its southern border with Ship Creek and abuts JBER on the northern boundary. The forested base of Government Hill and lands along Ship Creek are known travel corridors for many wildlife species including moose, wolves, coyotes, lynx, black bear and brown bear. Every year ADF&G receives calls about black bears accessing trash, negative interactions with humans, and general sightings in the Government Hill area. Several calls in the last year were about bears accessing trash at a daycare center. The importance of securing trash in Government Hill was evident dating back to 2015 when five black bears freely accessing trash were relocated. These same bears were later killed when they repeated the same behavior (i.e. accessing trash) in a different community. Bears accessing and feeding from trash cans and dumpsters not only creates habituated animals, but also an unsafe environment for both people and bears.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game supports efforts to reduce the access that bears have to anthropogenic food. When bears have access to human-generated food sources, the potential for negative human-bear conflicts increases. ADF&G and other agencies spend countless hours every year encouraging residents and visitors to minimize human-generated bear attractants. The most common messages involve securing garbage, livestock, and other attractants. Moving to bear-resistant trash cans for this area will be a great step forward in reducing potential human-bear conflict and keeping our wildlife wild.

If you have any questions or if we can provide any further information, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory Stantorf", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cory Stantorf  
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