

South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board

Ralph Broshes, Chair

dlowney@acsalaska.net

RESOLUTION FROM SOUTH KENAI PENINSULA SERVICE AREA BOARD

A resolution of the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board supporting Proposed Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2018-16 (Substitute) to move the common boundary between the Central Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area and the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area to the midway point near Barbara Drive, and expand the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area to include the land south of Kachemak Bay excluding the city of Seldovia, both subject to voter approval.

- WHEREAS,** South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area was created by voter approval in 1969 with a north boundary line at Sterling Highway milepost 119 (just south of Clam Gulch) and a south boundary line which excluded the properties on the south side of Kachemak Bay which had access to the Seldovia hospital; and
- WHEREAS,** Barbara Drive area is the midway point on the highway between South and Central Peninsula Hospitals and the Seldovia hospital closed in the mid-1970s, making the hospital in Homer the only local hospital for residents across the southwest end of the bay for 40-plus years; and
- WHEREAS,** Residents of the south Kachemak Bay area utilize the services of South Peninsula Hospital, with an annual average of more than 900 unique patient encounters a year; and
- WHEREAS,** it appears there would be no financial loss at this time to available service area funds based on the changes to both north and south boundaries; and
- WHEREAS,** if this resolution is adopted by voters, this would put an end to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly's ongoing boundary line debate, which has repeatedly and unnecessarily consumed a vast amount of borough resources and put the sustainability of the service area at risk; and
- WHEREAS,** the southern Kenai Peninsula is the fastest aging segment of the borough with a growing number of property owners exempt from paying property tax, and adoption of this ordinance helps maintain a balance of tax contributors in the service area; and

(continued)

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WHEREAS, service area residents rely on the service area taxes to maintain the sustainability of the hospital and offer state-of-the-art medical technologies for quality care close to home and as a means of recruiting high quality providers; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of additional residents and property owners in the service area possibly allows for future reduction in the mil rate,

NOW, in order to avoid litigation at this time, therefore be it resolved, that the Service Area Board of the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area hereby supports Kenai Peninsula Borough substitute ordinance 2018-16 as submitted by Assembly member Dale Bagely for Assembly consideration on Tuesday, June 19, 2018.

Adopted by the SKPHSAB June 14, 2018.