

**Municipality
of
Anchorage**



*P.O. Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>
Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor*

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Jerry Fox & Robert Snitzer, Co-Chairs
Eryn Boone, Mike Edgington, Christina Hendrickson*

**Resolution 2018-18
Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors**

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

Recommending that Anchorage Municipal Code require trash to be maintained in bear resistant canisters at all times within the Girdwood Valley Service Area.

Whereas, the current Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) code lacks clear and enforceable measures requiring waste to be secured from bears; and

Whereas, Girdwood is a small and densely developed community situated in the heart of prime brown and black bear habitat; and

Whereas, the people of Girdwood have experienced recurring conflicts with bears in our community with six bears killed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in 2018; and

Whereas, the people of Girdwood understand the responsibility to the wildlife whose home we share and seek to minimize human bear conflict; and

Whereas, a local community group, Girdwood Bear Aware, has formed with the mission “to reduce human/bear conflict through education, cooperation and active management initiatives in the community of Girdwood and surrounding area;” and

Whereas, it is estimated that 85% of residents who use curbside pickup garbage collection service in the Girdwood Valley Service Area already have bear resistant trash containers; and

Whereas, this topic has been presented and discussed at the Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) meetings and Girdwood Board of Supervisor (GBOS) meetings over the past five months; and

Whereas, Girdwood Bear Aware has requested that GBOS work towards enacting an ordinance requiring Girdwood residents to secure their waste in bear resistant canisters, an ordinance limiting the hours that residents put out their trash bins for pick up, and also review the staffing and hours at the Girdwood Transfer Station to meet the needs of the community; and

Whereas, other communities around Alaska, including Juneau and Sitka, have passed successful local ordinances aimed at keeping bears out of garbage; and

Whereas, MOA is working on addressing waste management and bears in response to recurring conflicts with bears in communities throughout the MOA.

THEREFORE, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, in accordance with the Girdwood Bear Aware recommendation and the broader MOA efforts at addressing this issue, resolves to request the following changes to MOA code:

- Recommend that new code be enacted, effective for Girdwood Valley Service Area, requiring garbage to be secure from access by bears at all times, for example in bear-resistant containers, including a fee schedule for fines issued with citations.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 5 to 0 this 19th day of November, 2018.

Eryn Boone
Eryn Boone, GBOS Utilities and Roads Supervisor

11/19/18
Date

Margaret Tyler
Attest

11/19/18
Date