

**Girdwood 2020  
P O Box 1102  
Girdwood, AK 99587**

**Alyeska Resort  
P O Box 249  
Girdwood, AK 99587**

October 19, 2015

Hon. Bill Walker, Governor  
State of Alaska  
P O Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Governor Walker:

In less than three months the Alaska State Troopers (“AST”) will close its Girdwood substation, leaving our community of 2,600 permanent residents – and another 2,500 nonresident property owners – with no law enforcement. The action of AST will also reduce Trooper coverage along one of the most deadly stretches of the Seward Highway, a segment used by more than 15,000 vehicles per day during the summer months.

We believe you would agree that leaving Girdwood unprotected and lowering Trooper visibility and response time along the Seward Highway are unacceptable consequences.

We understand Alaska’s fiscal crisis and believe the residents of Girdwood should pay a fair share for law enforcement.

The Directors of Girdwood 2020 and owner of Alyeska Resort unanimously support continuing law enforcement in our community. The community is considering the following options:

- The state continues to provide Trooper coverage, funded by Girdwood;
- Girdwood contracts with Whittier to provide police coverage; or
- Anchorage expands its police service area to include Girdwood, an option that provides more coverage than Girdwood needs and nearly doubles our property tax.

Girdwood 2020 and Alyeska Resort recognize that these discussions are dynamic. Information is still being gathered and other options may materialize.

Of the three alternatives under consideration, Girdwood 2020 and Alyeska Resort strongly prefer to continue current Trooper coverage. We understand that the decision to close the Trooper substation and transfer its officers to Soldotna is due to State budget cuts. We support having our community pay for continued coverage because this option creates a symbiotic relationship between Girdwood law enforcement and essential patrol along the Seward Highway. In fact, this is the only option that efficiently provides community enforcement and highway coverage.

We stand ready to assist in finding a solution that best protects Girdwood, Alaska's commercial interests and the three-quarters of the State's population that travel the Seward Highway year in and year out.

Girdwood 2020, Alyeska Resort and the Girdwood community through the Girdwood Board of Supervisors enjoy a strategic working alliance, all with the intent of promoting what is best for the Girdwood area, its residents and visitors.

Girdwood 2020 is a group of citizens numbering in the hundreds who want Girdwood to grow and prosper as a unique and internationally recognized mountain resort community through environmentally responsible economic development. Its Executive Committee includes a Permanent Fund trustee, the general manager of the State's largest shipping company, three vice presidents of Native corporations and the owner's representative of Alyeska Resort. Directors also include architects, retail owners and a retired school administrator; realtors, a CPA and a government relations consultant. What unifies this diverse group is a passion for responsible growth and a deep love of community.

Alyeska Resort is essentially the only four season destination resort in South Central Alaska servicing local and international guests. Alyeska is the State's largest ski resort with four (4) major ski lifts and an Aerial Tram. The Resort includes the luxury 300+ room Hotel Alyeska, which offers a full service spa and pool, six (6) food and beverage outlets and approximately 6,000 square feet of banquet and meeting space; the Sitzmark Bar and Grill; and a skier Daylodge. Alyeska Resort employs over 700 full and part time employees each year. The resort caters to hundreds of thousands of visitors a year.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors is the body elected to conduct the civic business of the community: Roads, Parks and Recreation, Utilities, Land Use, Fire and Public Safety and Cemetery. The Public Safety Task Force reporting to Girdwood Board of Supervisors has been working on a solution to our law enforcement problem for many weeks.

Thank you for considering our situation and working with us for the most efficient, timely and cost-effective solution. Time is of the essence; we stand ready to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

ALYESKA RESORT



John Byrne III

GIRDWOOD 2020

Diana Stone Livingston  
Co-Chair

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