

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

**A RESOLUTION RESCINDING THE COMMISSION'S RESOLUTION NO. 2015-01 AND
RECOMMENDING SEVERAL METHODS FOR STORING AND COLLECTING
GARBAGE SO AS NOT TO ATTRACT BEARS INTO NEIGHBORHOODS.**

(WNRC Case No. 2015-02)

WHEREAS, the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, the Assembly, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and municipal departments; and

WHEREAS, Solid Waste Services (SWS) provides curbside garbage collection for about 13,000 households in the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has collected data that shows some areas have chronic problems with bears getting into garbage; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the April 2000 plan *Living with Wildlife in Anchorage: A Cooperative Planning Effort*, and the Anchorage Bear Committee have identified improperly secured garbage as the primary reason black bears are attracted into neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, bears that become conditioned to human foods and linger in neighborhoods to exploit easily accessible garbage are potential risks to public safety, which requires the police and other public agencies to devote more time and money to the problem, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has discussed these issues with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, SWS, and Alaska Waste, and representatives from several affected community councils; and

WHEREAS, as of last year no existing bear-resistant containers are designed to work with the automated trucks currently employed by SWS and Alaska Waste; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Waste offers customers the option of paying an additional small monthly fee during summer for a bear-resistant tipper cart or dumpster to cover the extra handling; and

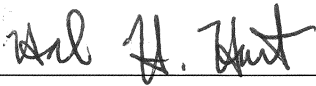
WHEREAS, this Commission recommended in WNRC Resolution No. 2013-01 that SWS become more involved in the multi-agency Anchorage Bear Committee because agency coordination, cooperation, and public education are needed to address human-bear conflicts throughout the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality has long supported the plan *Living with Wildlife in Anchorage: A Cooperative Planning Effort*, incorporating it by reference in Title 21.

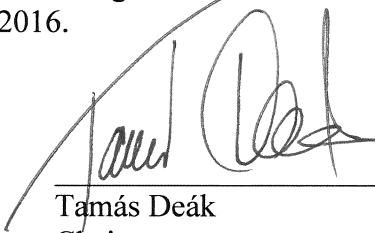
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission recommends that:

- A. WNRC Resolution No. 2015-01 is rescinded and replaced with this resolution;
- B. SWS and the Municipality should commit to using a community or neighborhood bear-resistant dumpster in areas where garbage storage and volumes complicate weekly pick-ups or contribute to bear conflicts;
- C. Solid Waste Services should continue looking for bear-resistant tipper carts that are compatible with its automated collection equipment;
- D. In the meantime, Solid Waste Services should consider offering customers the option of bear-resistant containers like Alaska Waste;
- E. The Municipality strictly and consistently enforce or if necessary, revise relevant sections of Anchorage Municipal Code (26.70 and 26.80) regarding the timing, location, and enforcement of garbage collection;
- F. The Municipality of Anchorage continue to coordinate and cooperate with the Anchorage Bear Committee in support of the plan *Living with Wildlife in Anchorage: A Cooperative Planning Effort*; and
- G. If these measures fail to reduce bear attractants in Anchorage neighborhoods, the Assembly should consider a bear-garbage ordinance similar to those found in other communities surrounded by bear habitat, such as Juneau.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission on this 27th day of April, 2016.



Hal H. Hart
Secretary



Tamás Deák
Chair