



Municipality of Anchorage
Planning Department
Memorandum



Date: January 6, 2024

To: Planning and Zoning Commission

Thru: ^{HB} Méliisa R.K. Babb, Director

Thru: ^{ID for:} Ryan Yelle, Long-Range Planning Manager

From: ^{ID} Tom Davis, AICP, Senior Planner/Urban Designer

Subject: PZC Case No. 2024-0100, 10-Year Review of Community Council Boundaries Case Packet for January 6 Public Hearing

The Planning and Zoning Commission is requested to hold a public hearing and make its recommendations regarding proposed amendments to the community council district boundaries. Community council districts are established in Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) Section 2.40, *Community Councils*. This project, the *10-Year Review of Community Council Boundaries*, fulfills a requirement set forth in AMC 2.40.040 for the Municipality to review the community council boundaries every 10 years to determine if any boundaries should be adjusted, and include a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission. The findings and recommendations from the Commission will be forwarded to the Assembly, which will also hold a public hearing before taking final action.

Materials for Review. The public hearing draft materials for consideration include:

- A public hearing draft assembly ordinance, comprising Attachments 1 and 2. Attachment 1 is the text of the ordinance amending the list of recognized community council districts and list of community council district maps in AMC Section 2.40. Attachment 2 is the exhibit of the ordinance (“Exhibit A”) which shows the revised community council boundary maps to replace the existing maps in the code section.
- A public hearing draft *Report and Recommendations*, comprising Attachment 3. This documents the public process and provides the analysis for 40 Boundary Study Areas identified during the project. This report provides the basis for the code and map amendments in the draft assembly ordinance.
- Appendices A, B, and C of the *Report and Recommendations* (Attachments 4, 5, and 6). Appendices A and B document public comments and meetings. Appendix C provides the “Boundary Study Area Maps”, which show the 40 Boundary Study Areas in relation to existing community council boundaries.
- Public comments received as of December 23, 2024, comprising Attachment 7.

Public Review and Public Hearing Schedule. The public hearing draft materials were released for public review on the [project webpage](#) on October 30, 2024. Notification of the release and public hearing schedule was emailed to the officers of all community councils and the Federation of Community Councils on November 1, 2024.

The public hearing draft materials were then posted on the Planning Department's *Planning Cases Online* website, distributed for agency and public review on November 15, 2024, and scheduled for the January 6 Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing. The public hearing schedule was announced on the Municipality of Anchorage Public Notices webpages. Since the release, staff has been appearing at community council meetings upon request and providing technical assistance.

The Planning Department requests that the Planning and Zoning Commission open the public hearing for Case 2024-0100 on January 6 **and continue the public hearing to February 3, 2025.** Continuing the hearing to February 3 is necessary to give community councils and any other organizations enough time to deliberate and vote on a resolution for the Commission's consideration.

Providing enough time for all affected community councils to convey their recommendations is essential to meet the public process requirement set forth in AMC 2.40.040 for boundary reviews. This code section establishes that the Planning and Zoning Commission and Assembly must each solicit and consider the recommendations of community councils concerning changes in community council district boundaries. The additional month of review also provides Commissioners more time to absorb the public hearing draft materials for review.

Comments Received So Far. Written comments from reviewing agencies and the public that have been received as of December 23 are provided in Attachment 7. As of this writing, five agencies responded indicating they have no objections or comments, two members of the public submitted comments supporting specific boundary changes, and nine community councils submitted resolutions stating their positions concerning their boundaries.

The Planning Department anticipates receiving more resolutions from community councils throughout January. Staff will submit these additional public comments and a final department recommendation in the February 3 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting packet. The February 3 recommendation will address all public comments received and may recommend further amendments to the public hearing draft text amendment and maps.