

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2025-005

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY OF THE 10-YEAR REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES.

(Case 2024-0100)

WHEREAS, the *Anchorage Municipal Charter*, at the founding of the Municipality in 1975, established community councils, granting official recognition and representation to neighborhood associations in government and local affairs; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of community councils to reflect and represent actual neighborhoods, so that people have an identifiable part of the city to belong and relate to, and organize as a community; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) Sections 2.40.040, *Establishment of Community Councils*, and 2.40.090, *Community Council Maps*, establish the community council districts and boundaries recognized by the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, AMC Section 2.40.040 requires the Municipality to review community council district boundaries every 10 years and seek public input as to whether any boundaries between community council districts should be adjusted; and

WHEREAS, decennial boundary reviews are intended to ensure the geographic boundaries of community council districts evolve through the decades of neighborhood change so that they continue to reflect and represent actual neighborhood communities, and that all citizens continue to have opportunity for representation by an active, engaged community council for their area; and

WHEREAS, these boundary reviews and adjustments support the success of community councils in their function as neighborhood forums for participation and organized neighborhood advocacy and action; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality previously conducted a comprehensive boundaries review in 2003 and a 10-year review in 2014; and

WHEREAS, AMC Section 2.40.040 establishes the criteria for delineating community council districts, which include to group residents within natural communities and recognize community desires as to boundaries; and

WHEREAS, AMC Section 2.40.040 establishes an open public process for these periodic reviews, in which the municipal Planning Department must obtain public input and the participation of the community councils in considering possible changes to community council boundaries, and the Planning and Zoning Commission and Assembly must each solicit and consider the recommendations of community councils concerning changes to their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Department, with the support of the Municipal Ombudsman, initiated a new decennial review of community council boundaries in 2022-2023 with outreach to the Federation of Community Councils and the officers of community councils, an online questionnaire survey distributed to the Federation's contact list of approximately 9,500 people, and the formation of a community council boundary advisory committee; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Department and the boundary advisory committee held six publicly noticed meetings to evaluate approximately 40 boundary study areas identified by the public, applying the municipal boundary review criteria and inviting public participation; and

WHEREAS, the October 2024 public hearing draft recommended community council boundaries to reflect the results of this public process; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing draft ordinance and accompanying exhibits were released on October 30, 2024, for five months of public review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission held an advertised work session on March 10, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission held two advertised public hearings on January 6 and March 10 and deliberated and took action on March 10, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission that:

A. The Commission makes the following findings of fact:

1. There has been an impressive amount of work in the public process, including the amount of dialogue and engagement, the standing up of a fully empowered boundary advisory committee, the extension of this public hearing to enable more community engagement and to receive the comments, and the thought and effort that went toward presenting all the information clearly.
2. The Planning Department has taken a careful look at the latest recommendations from the public, evaluated them, informed the Commission regarding staff's decision-making process, and has given commissioners the information necessary to support the Department's recommendations.
3. The Commission acknowledges the public hearing testimony. Turnagain Community Council put forward a compelling case around its interest in retaining its status-quo coastal boundaries out to mean low or lower water, with respect to being engaged and having what it sees as an existing premise of right to be engaged for projects in that area. However, there is a lack of definition for what low water is and the tidal flats is a dynamic area in which the intertidal zone changes a lot, giving its landscape a different look and feel from the other parts of the community council, which are above ordinary high water. For that reason, the Commission supports the Planning Department's recommendation for changing the coastal boundaries (in Boundary Study Area #40).

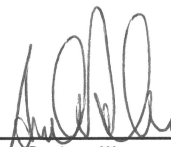
4. With respect to the University Area Community Council's position regarding the area between Boniface Parkway and Baxter Road (Boundary Study Area #8), the Commission appreciates University Area's interest to retain a semblance of residency within its community council, and underscores the Planning Department's position that, although it is recommending to move forward with the recommended boundary change, there will be opportunity for continued discussion at the Assembly meeting, if not before, regarding this boundary.
 5. Several public parks were identified by the public to determine which community council district was the best fit. Overlapping the community council district boundaries in parks would create administrative and mapping challenges, so it makes sense to put the park in one community council district or the other. Under the applicable notice rules for public outreach regarding projects involving parks, all community councils within 1,000 feet of the park receive notice. There is a public process in place, and the Commission encourages community councils to continue to work through that process on behalf of the parks that affect them and the community.
- B. The Commission recommends to the Anchorage Assembly approval of the October 2024 public hearing draft Assembly Ordinance (Attachment 1) and the Community Council District Maps (Attachment 2 - Exhibit A), including changes 1 through 6 shown on pages 1 and 2 of the March 10, 2025, staff report memorandum.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission on the 10th day of March 2025.

ADOPTED by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission this 20th day of March 2025.



Mélisa R. K. Babb
Secretary



Andre Spinelli
Chair

(Case No. 2024-0100)