

**Municipality  
of  
Anchorage**



*P.O. Box 390  
Girdwood, Alaska 99587  
<http://www.muni.org/gbas>*

**Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor**

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Erin Eker & Sam Daniel, Co-Chairs  
Tommy O'Malley, Robert Snitzer, Jerry Fox*

Resolution 2015-09  
Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A BALLOT INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS PUBLIC SAFETY IN GIRDWOOD AFTER THE ALASKA STATE TROOPER GIRDWOOD POST CLOSURE. BALLOT INITIATIVE NEEDS TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF GIRDWOOD SERVICE AREA VOTERS TO GIVE AUTHORITY TO GIRDWOOD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND TO DESIGNATE THE WHITTIER POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A CONTRACTED POLICING AUTHORITY, WITH CREATION OF A PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD TO ASSIST IN SETTING POLICING GOALS FOR THE GIRDWOOD SERVICE AREA.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Troopers have announced that the Girdwood Trooper Post will close on June 30, 2016 and that Troopers serving the Seward Highway will no longer be available for law enforcement concerns in the Girdwood Service Area; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the upcoming trooper withdrawal, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors created a volunteer Public Safety Task Force, which has met monthly and has researched, investigated and reported back to the community, the public safety options available to the Girdwood Service Area; and,

WHEREAS, although part of the Municipality of Anchorage, and therefore within the Anchorage Police Department's (APD) purview, the Public Safety Task Force found that Girdwood's policing needs do not match the APD urban policing model, which is the only model of police service that Anchorage Police Department can legally offer, the cost and scope of which is unacceptable to residents in Girdwood; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association has agreed to not object to the Girdwood Service Area contracting with a law enforcement entity other than the Anchorage Police Department to provide law enforcement that is more suitable to our community; and,

WHEREAS, without a public safety enforcement agency, Girdwood Service Area would have no investigation of crimes, enforcement of state laws, except in the most egregious of crimes; and,

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Volunteer Fire Department and paramedics are not able to respond to those in need of their services, until the scene is declared safe by an authorized public safety entity; and,

WHEREAS, at a public Town Hall Meeting, held on November 21, 2015 in the Girdwood School, the community expressed clearly in a straw poll, their support for contracting with the Whittier Police Department, compared with all other reasonable options available within the timeline established by the trooper withdrawal date; and

WHEREAS, in the near future, a board will be created to administer this contract and to establish law enforcement priorities for the Whittier Police Department for their service in Girdwood;

THEREFORE, it is resolved by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors to request that our representatives on the Anchorage Assembly draft an ordinance for Girdwood Service Area voters to consider on the April 2016 General Election Ballot allowing for the Girdwood Board of Supervisors to tax for public safety, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a ballot initiative be drafted identifying the Whittier Police Department as the contracted public safety entity to serve the Girdwood Service Area, with the formation of a board to provide a degree of local control over the Whittier Police Department's enforcement priorities. Passed and resolved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2015 at the Regular Meeting of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors.

T. O'Malley  
Tommy O'Malley, Girdwood Board of Supervisors

12-16-15  
Date

[Signature]  
Attest

12-16-15