

**Municipality
of
Anchorage**



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

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

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

**Resolution 2016-07
Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE DECISION
TO WITHDRAW ALASKA STATE TROOPERS FROM GIRDWOOD SERVICE.**

WHEREAS, in response to the Alaska State Troopers Girdwood Post closure, effective June 30, 2016, the Girdwood Public Safety Task Force research and public meetings, and the results of the November 21, 2015 Girdwood Town Hall meeting the Girdwood Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 2015-09, requesting an ordinance giving the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) the authority to tax for and provide police services within the GVSA; and

WHEREAS, by a vote of 411 in favor and 408 opposed, the proposition giving the GBOS power to tax for the purpose of securing police services for the Girdwood Valley Service Area appears to have passed by a very slim margin, a clear indication of the divided opinion of the community on this issue; and

WHEREAS, although support for proposition 9 has been tepid, this is more related to the current models of service that are under consideration, and should not be interpreted as a lackluster support for public safety. In fact, at each public meeting, the overwhelming public sentiment, echoed with statistics from the Alaska State Troopers, is that highway enforcement at current levels is critical to keeping the highway user population safe and providing a rural law enforcement model that matches our small community's needs, a combination that no other law enforcement entity can provide; and

WHEREAS, Girdwood is a community with a year-round population of about 2,000 residents, and visitor population in excess of 300,000 annually and requires unique policing services to address the needs of these groups; and

WHEREAS, a vote for police services in Girdwood does not provide any resolution of this issue to the communities of Bird Creek, Indian, Rainbow, Portage or the neighborhood of Crow Creek. These communities are left with no enforcement services and no realistic way to achieve them; and

WHEREAS, there is no organized entity that speaks for all the stakeholders and users of the Seward Highway: all residents, visitors, and businesses that travel its route, who require safe passage to access to all homes, communities, businesses and recreation facilities south of McHugh Creek; and

WHEREAS, the number of highway safety officers is based on federal highway grant funds, which are not necessarily secure and could result in even fewer officers patrolling Alaska's many highway miles; and

WHEREAS, it is understood by the GBOS that the State of Alaska is engaged in a lease arrangement for the Alaska State Trooper post location at the Girdwood Station Mall that does not expire until June 2019; thereby committing funds for rent of that space until that date, whether or not the space is used by Alaska State Troopers;

THEREFORE, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors requests that Governor Walker, incoming Alaska Department of Public Safety Commissioner Monegan, and the Alaska State Legislature reconsider trooper service in Girdwood. With now approved taxpayer funding for public safety in the amount of \$610,000 per year, Girdwood Board of Supervisors requests that the State of Alaska and Alaska State Troopers negotiate an annual contract in order to augment existing highway patrol and provide limited service to the community. This will allow the community of Girdwood to have time to thoughtfully consider the future of public safety beyond the current year.

Sam Daniel

4/26/16

Sam Daniel, Girdwood Board of Supervisors

Date

Margaret Lyr

4/26/16

Attest