

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee Regular Meeting

August 12, 2025

Minutes Final

This meeting will be held via Teams with in-person attendance at the Girdwood Community Room, 250 Egloff Dr.

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

7PM Call to order, Luke Niedringhaus

Roll call: Attending are Tim Asten, Debra Croghan, Luke Niedringhaus

Mike Opalka is absent

Quorum confirmed

GBOS Member Kellie Okonek, Police, Roads and Utilities Chair arrives 8:15.

Agenda approved for Aug 12 meeting

Minutes from May 13 meeting are not voted on.

Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:

Business:

1) Status of 2 year extension of Public Safety Contract with Whittier

Approval of policing contract extension is in process. In addition to the increase that was pre-negotiated as extension to the original contract, Whittier has identified some costs to add, which are primarily related to increased staffing and equipment for large events in Girdwood, additional vehicle, and new dispatch service/software at a total cost of \$40,000. This brings the total cost for the contract to \$896,905 per year of the extension. This requires assembly approval. GBOS approves of these however is seeking some clarification about the personnel expenses.

2) Public Safety Contract after 2027

Ideas to be considered in next contract cycle (starting Jan 1 2028)

The two-year extension will go by quickly. Early in 2026 PSAC will begin working on reviewing policing options

3) Discuss any new and ongoing Girdwood public safety concerns (see meeting packet)

Speeding and Speed Limit on Alyeska Highway

DOT is wrapping up data gathering on Alyeska Highway and Crow Creek Road. DOT also did some data collection using handheld devices to track traffic volume and speed.

GVSA will request a copy of the completed report. It should be reading in the fall.

Unrestricted access to airport:

Less activity on this, most airport input has been related to new airport plan and parcel H development.

Additional gate: no new information on this. It does seem like restricting access via gates would be helpful in limiting non-aviation use.

Speed enforcement:

Increase in enforcement on lower valley roads as requested due to concerns specifically about commercial vehicle traffic. None of the speeding vehicles have been commercial vehicles. GVSA has contacted construction companies and requested that they share the community concerns about

Parking citations: WPD has been issuing EasyPark parking tickets.

Homeless/camping: GVSA and WPD have been contacting RV operators to move around instead of becoming settled in any municipal locations. DOT has been working with MOA on camp abatement on Crow Creek Road, as this falls under their responsibility.

- 4) Review upcoming community events (see meeting packet)

October: Community helper Month at the Girdwood k-8 school. Request that WPD and GFR participate.

October 25: Kids and Cops at the Ice Cream Shop 11A-2P

November 22: Coffee with a Cop at the Grind 10A-1P

- 5) Other Community relations opportunities:

PSAC member ride along with WPD

Outreach via community resources: Newspaper; Newsletters; Clinic; Other

Attendance at Whittier town council with contract extension?

Future Coffee with Cops/Cones and Cops

- 6) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board

Thank you to Tommy for continuing on with the community engagement and events. (Tim Astle)

Consider 4-Way stop at intersection of Hightower and Alyeska Highway. Concern that increased traffic from new subdivision will make this intersection busier than the current traffic pattern can handle. (Luke Niedringhaus) Initiating a traffic study on this intersection will be added to the agenda at the next meeting, however in discussion the group determines that they want to be more proactive in pushing this forward. MOA has previously indicated that infrastructure of this sort would follow development. Within the last 5 years the community initiated traffic calming for that intersection and proposed stop light, etc. At that time, traffic study did not show need, however community political will eventually prevailed. This culminated in the flashing crosswalk sign, which GVSA paid for and was ultimately reimbursed for by DOT.

Debra Croghan suggests that some mitigation closer to the school. Holtan Hills entry will have a 3-way stop with lighted intersection. Traffic study and traffic control measures will provide a more holistic view of the area and traffic patterns.

Motion:

PSAC moves to recommend that GBOS request a traffic study and traffic control measures for Hightower Road from Alyeska Highway to the Girdwood School.

Motion by Niedringhaus/2nd by Croghan

Motion carries unanimously.

Briana will carry this forward to GBOS as Kellie will be out.

- 7) Consider next meeting date (propose Dec 9 at 7PM)

Public Safety Reports:

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – review most recent stats

Total calls 535; 247 were in GVSA; additional information will be shared in written report and posted on the website.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – See report in packet

Michelle Weston has completed evacuation plan and is working on information to be provided to homeowners with emergency info. Most GFR members have red cards for wildfire. Lots of continued training for GFR members.

Girdwood equipment was deployed to fires in-state for reimbursement payments. These funds then can be used to get additional equipment.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Kellie Okonek)

Items already addressed in the meeting.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn 7:40PM