



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Department

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 907-343-4355

URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 6, 2016

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Parks and Recreation Department

Project: **PRC 2016-29: Proposed Naming of a Public Facility:**
Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook

Background and Proposal

The Parks and Recreation Commission is asked to consider and make a recommendation regarding a proposal to name a portion of Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park as the "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook" in honor of the longtime Government Hill neighborhood residents.

AMC Chapter 3.97 states the policy regarding naming of public places, and provides criteria or factors to consider when considering names for public places in general and park facilities in particular. A copy of AMC 3.97 is attached for reference.

A naming panel appointed by the Assembly in accordance with AMC Chapter 3.97 held a public hearing on Sept. 13, 2016, to consider the proposed naming. Minutes from the meeting are attached for reference, and indicate general support for the proposed naming.

The attached resolution from the Government Hill Community Council enumerates many of the Hancocks' contributions and qualities of leadership and commitment to Government Hill and their dedicated stewardship of its neighborhood parks in particular. The Council resolution was passed Sept. 15, 2016 in support of the proposed naming.

Analysis and Findings

The attached letter from the naming panel dated Sept. 21, 2016, notes the policy and criteria of AMC Chapter 3.97 and summarizes the findings of the panel with respect to the criteria.

The Parks and Recreation Department generally concurs with findings of the naming panel as set forth in the attached letter and agrees that the criteria are satisfactorily met.

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt the attached resolution in support of the proposed naming of the scenic overlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park as "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook."

Attachments:

AMC 3.97; Minutes from naming panel meeting of Sept. 13, 2016; Government Hill Community Council Resolution 2016-03 dated Sept. 15, 2016; Letter from the naming panel to Mayor and Assembly dated Sept. 21, 2016



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Commission

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519



PRC Resolution No. 2016-23
Proposed Naming of a Public Facility
Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, AMC Chapter 3.97 provides for naming of public facilities, in particular internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces, in honor of individual citizens identified as outstanding local, state, national, or international civic leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Government Hill Community Council has recognized Howard and Mavis Hancock for their significant voluntary service over a span of more than 50 years, including formal and informal leadership on the Community Council, with particular interest in neighborhood parks, and overall valuable contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Government Hill Community Council at its September 15, 2016, meeting voted in favor of the proposed naming of the overlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park as the Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook, in their honor; and

WHEREAS, members of the Naming Panel appointed by the Anchorage Assembly also recommends the proposed naming of the overlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park as the Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission acknowledges the above as testimony as to the extraordinary contributions of Howard and Mavis Hancock, to the benefit of the citizens of Anchorage and its visitors; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Assembly name the overlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park as the "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook."

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of October, 2016.

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

John Rodda, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

Anchorage Municipal Code

Chapter 3.97 - NAMING OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, OTHER FIXED FACILITIES AND PUBLIC PLACES

FOOTNOTE(S):

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Cross reference— Historic preservation board, § 4.60.030

3.97.010 - Purpose.

- A. The municipality hereby establishes a policy and set of procedures to govern the naming of a public place and the honorary renaming of streets and roads. A sound naming policy adds meaning, significance and uniformity to public facilities, minimizes conflict and provides a forum for meaningful discussion regarding naming. Further, a consistent municipal naming policy lends continuity and a sense of community, and establishes a means of appropriately recognizing prominent individuals and those who have substantially contributed to the municipality, the state or the nation.
- B. The selection of a name that is purposeful, suitable, and symbolic should be approached in a systematic and creative way. This process can generate opportunities to induce dynamic community impact, create sensitivity and lasting public relations, express appreciation, and educate.
- C. For purposes of this chapter, a public place means any building, facility, municipal or park lands, owned by or under the control of the municipality, including interior and component spaces integral to the whole, and excluding Anchorage School District buildings and facilities.

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 1, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 1, 9-25-07)

3.97.020 - Policy.

When considering the naming or renaming of municipal buildings, other fixed facilities, and public places, the preferred practice shall be to give public property historical, cultural or geographical significance considering location, function and natural features. The existing name of any public place is presumed to be the best name of that public place. Continuity of name and common usage are presumed to increase sense of neighborhood.

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 2, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 2, 9-25-07)

3.97.025 - Criteria.

- A. Honorary naming. Naming of a public place will:
 - 1. Demonstrate that the policy objectives under Section 3.97.020 have been considered and will specify findings for an exception;
 - 2. Identify the individual's connection to the municipality if considering an outstanding local, state, national or international civic leader;
 - 3. Consider the historical significance of the person and the duration of residence in the municipality, or connection with the municipality if a nonresident;
 - 4. Consider the history of the location in relation to the history of the present name, when proposing to rename an existing public place;
 - 5. Not change the name of a public place bearing an historic Anchorage family name;

6. Not change historic names of designated landmarks listed on a state or National Register of Historic Places;
 7. Limit honorary naming to a one time present use of an individual's name;
 8. Support the preferred practice of honoring individual citizens through naming of internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces. Naming a public building, facility, or park for a living person is not favored.
 9. Renaming of a public place, road or street should not be considered within 20 years of the previous naming.
- B. Public places under the jurisdiction of a parks and recreation board or commission. In naming a public place, including a trail, within the control and supervision of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, or the Chugiak-Eagle River Parks and Recreation Board of Supervisors, these additional factors shall be considered:
1. Names of persons who, through exemplary and substantial effort, have made a significant contribution to the community or the parks and recreation department or who have made a substantial donation to acquisition or development of the property.
 2. Organizations that have made a substantial donation to the acquisition or development of the property;
 3. Incorporating the geographic, natural or geological feature as part of the name to assist the public in recognizing the location.
- C. Honorary renaming of streets and roads. Subject to the requirements of AMC 21.15.133, AMC 21.80.260, and public safety considerations, the following criteria shall apply in the honorary renaming of streets and roads:
1. The individual whose name is proposed for honorary renaming shall be worthy of long-term recognition by virtue of special efforts, accomplishments, or contributions which have benefited the municipality or the state.
 2. No street name bearing an Anchorage historic family name will be eligible for renaming.

(AO No. 2006-51(S), § 3, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 3, 9-25-07; AO No. 2008-92, § 1, 9-16-08)

3.97.030 - Procedures.

- A. Citizen naming panel. Preliminary action in naming a public place may be initiated by memorandum of the mayor or resolution of the assembly, identifying the proposed public place or individual, for referral to a citizen naming panel. If any request covers a public place in a municipal park, the request shall be referred to the parks and recreation commission or service area board with jurisdiction over the public place either before appointing the panel or by the panel after appointment. The four-member panel shall be appointed to proceed as follows:
1. The mayor shall appoint two members for the panel; and
 2. The assembly chair shall appoint two members for the panel.
 3. The naming panel may be composed of members of recognized boards and commissions.
 4. An informational memorandum shall be submitted identifying the four members of the panel.
 5. Municipal staff support to the panel shall be identified in the memorandum or resolution.
 6. The panel shall review proposed names and public places, hold public hearing, and identify additional potential names or public places as appropriate to the request.

7. The panel shall review all requests for compliance with policy and honorary naming criteria under this chapter.
- B. Upon agreement of at least three of the four panel members, a letter advising the mayor and the assembly chair shall be dispatched on behalf of the panel. The letter shall include reference to each criteria identified in 3.97.025 and how the panel considered those factors in its recommendation. The panel's letter shall be attached to a resolution for consideration by the assembly. Memoranda as appropriate may be appended to the resolution to explain or amplify relevant information for the assembly. If at least three of the four panel members are unable to agree, a divided recommendation of the panel may be submitted for assembly consideration.
- C. Final action by the assembly shall be no earlier than one year posthumously for naming of a building, facility, or park. In all naming or renaming, the assembly shall set the proposed resolution addressing the panel's recommendation for public hearing at least one month after introduction to ensure appropriate information dissemination to the public prior to final action by the assembly.

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 4, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 4, 9-25-07; AO No. 2008-92, § 2, 9-16-08)

3.97.040 - Changing of names. (Repealed)

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 5, 6-20-06)

3.97.050 - Naming facility for other than an individual. (Repealed)

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 6, 6-20-06)

3.97.060 - Applicability of chapter.

This chapter shall not apply to the naming or renaming of facilities which were donated to the municipality contingent upon assignment of a specific name or to any facility constructed or purchased from money or property donated to the municipality for the specific purpose of securing a name for the facility. Further, this chapter does not apply to the naming of streets or roads, except in the application criteria for honorary renaming in Section 3.97.025, or to naming rights for municipal buildings, facilities or public places sold pursuant to Title 7, which shall be subject to assembly approval.

(AO No. 87-73; AO No. 91-173(S); AO No. 2005-114, § 1, 9-13-05; AO No. 2006-51(S), § 7, 6-20-06; AO No. 2007-95(S), § 5, 9-25-07)

“Susan Nightingale McKay Scenic Overlook” Naming Panel Public Hearing Minutes
September 13th, 2016, 6:00pm
Calvary Baptist Church

Naming Panel Members Present:

- Bob French
- Steve Gerlek

Municipality of Anchorage Support Staff Present:

- Jared James

Steve Gelerk moved to open the meeting and Bob Akitson seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

The staff reviewed the AMC sections 3.97 in full and discussed the process that the panel had previously gone through to ensure they were in compliance with 3.97.023 A and B. The panel informed the public that the current naming suggestion would be the “Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook”

After review the panel opened for public comment and encouraged each person in attendance to introduce themselves. The following members of the community were recognized: Tom Brennan, Marnie Brennan, Bob Akitson, Paul Laverty, and John McKay.

John McKay, suggested we review the proposed resolution and location for the naming changes. John also wanted to officially recognize his support for this action as he believed it is what Susan Nightingale McKay would have wanted. He is the widower of the Susan Nightingale McKay.

Tom Brennan confirmed that he believed that this would have been respected by Susan and states that he believes it is an important

The public and panel in attendance reviewed the document and were in general accepting of the resolution. Marnie Brennan asked that changes were made to recognize the tutoring work Mavis did outside of being a school teacher. Mr. Akitason and Mr. Laverty asked that the staff look into the dates in the resolution and confirm their accuracy.

Jared James recognized an email from Bobbie Bianchi stating: “I am TOTALLY for it! The Hancock's did and are still contributing greatly to this neighborhood. I can't make it to the meeting because I'm still staying in the valley with my granddaughter while my son is gone on a fish guiding trip. – Bobbie”. This was in lieu of the fact the Bobbie could not be in attendance.

Steve Gerlek asked to confirm the changes suggested by the public and the group unanimously agreed.

At 6:23 the public hearing was closed.

The panel recognized for the record that the Public Hearing Date was made public as of September 1st, 2016. This means that the public hearing notice was given 13 days and follow-up options for input would be given at the Government Hill Community Council on September 15th, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Steve Gerlek move to officially close the meeting. John McKay seconded.

Meeting closed at 6:27

Submitted by Jared James, Staff.



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
c/o Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Melinda Gant, President
Kyle Stevens, Vice President
Cassandra Willis, Secretary-Treasurer
Kyle Stevens, FCC Representative
Mavis Hancock, Donna Rymut, Greg Miller, At-Large Board Members
Stephanie Kesler, Past President

**GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 2016-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING
HOWARD AND MAVIS HANCOCK FOR THEIR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS OF
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE, PARKS &
RECREATION, AND GOVERNMENT HILL.**

WHEREAS, Howard and Mavis Hancock first came to Government Hill in 1965 and raised their three children there; and

WHEREAS, Howard Hancock was one of the individuals to work in Government Hill's historic Wireless Transmitter Building; and

WHEREAS, Mavis was a math teacher for the Anchorage School District and Howard served as the main contracting officer in the United States Air Force at Elmendorf AFB; and

WHEREAS, Howard and Mavis Hancock are modern pioneers of Anchorage's First Neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Howard and Mavis Hancock volunteered thousands of hours over fifty years to tending the flower gardens, hedges, and landscape of Suzan Nightingale-McKay Memorial Park; and

WHEREAS, Howard Hancock passed away on Thanksgiving Day in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mavis Hancock continues to devote considerable time and effort to Suzan Nightingale-McKay Memorial Park's gardens and landscaping; and

WHEREAS, Mavis Hancock has served for over twenty years as chair of the Government Hill Community Council's Parks Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mavis Hancock is a great champion for all Government Hill parks; and

WHEREAS, Mavis Hancock's leadership has involved actively participating in and directing the charge against weeds, harmful insects and other detriments to the neighborhood's parks, and

WHEREAS, Mavis and Harold Hancock deserve recognition for their leadership, dedication and unique abilities; and

WHEREAS, The bench and Denali overlook at the western end of Suzan Nightingale-McKay Memorial Park are close to the flower gardens in which Mavis Hancock has labored so long and well.

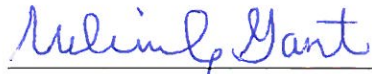
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The bench and overlook at the west end of Suzan Nightingale-McKay Memorial Park shall be dedicated and named the "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook, " and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Appropriate signage shall be placed at that location; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Anchorage Assembly recognizes Howard and Mavis Hancock for their more than 50 years of service to the Municipality of Anchorage, Parks & Recreation, and Government Hill.

PASSED AND CERTIFIED this 15th day of September, 2016.

APPROVED:



Melinda Gant, President
Government Hill Community Council

This resolution passed by a vote of 24 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

September 21, 2016

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
Municipality of Anchorage
POBox 196650
Anchorage, AK 99510

Assembly Chair Elvi Gray-Jackson
Municipality of anchorage
PO Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519

Dear Mayor Berkowitz and Assembly Chair Gray Jackson,

As outlined in AR 2016- 203, "A resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly appointing a Citizen Naming Panel for the honorary naming of the scenic overlook at Suzan Nightingale Mckay Park", the naming panel convened and held a public hearing per 3.97.030A(6) on September 13, 2016. The panel considered the criteria outlined in 3.97.025A-B and now, unanimously recommends that the Assembly name the scenic overlook at the Susan Nightingale Mckay Parks the "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook."

Our examination of the criteria is as follows:

A(1) Demonstrate that the policy objectives under Section 3.97.020 have been considered and will specify findings for an exception;

The Code section referred to above states that "in the naming or renaming of municipal buildings, other fixed facilities, and public places, the preferred practice shall be to give public property historical, cultural or geographical significance considering location, function and natural features" and that "the existing name of any public place is presumed to be the best name of that public place"

Whereas, the current space has no name and the proposed name adds to the historical significance of the location by recognizing the fifty years of work that the Hancocks have devoted to the beautification and upkeep of this property, the recommendation is consistent with this policy.

A(2) Identify the individual's connection to the municipality if considering an outstanding local, state, national or international civic leader;

Howard and Mavis Hancock have both tirelessly served in engaging and organizing the Government Hill community in continual park improvements and clean-up projects to ensure the safety and scenic vistas of the neighborhood for over fifty years. The couple were also public servants; Mavis was a mathematics teacher for many years in the Anchorage School District and Howard served as a contracting officer in the United States Air Force at Elmendorf.

A(3) Consider the historical significance of the person and the duration of residence in the municipality, or connection with the municipality if a nonresident;

Howard and Mavis Hancock have lived in the Government Hill community since 1965 and raised their three children on "The Hill."

A(4) Consider the history of the location in relation to the history of the present name, when proposing to rename an existing public place;

The panel is not recommending renaming a location, but they are recommending adding a secondary naming to the existing Susan Nightingale McKay Park. This will be for the scenic overlook in the park, which the Hancock's tended for many years.

The proposed "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook" designation has the full and enthusiastic support of John McKay, husband of the late Suzan Nightingale.

A(5) Not change the name of a public place bearing an historic Anchorage family name;

The panel's recommendation does not change the name of a public place bearing an historic Anchorage family name.

A(6) Not change historic names of designated landmarks listed on a state or National Register of Historic Places;

The park is not a designated historic landmark.

A(7) Limit honorary naming to a one time present use of an individual's name;

The scenic overlook is an element of the Susan Nightingale McKay Park, and it does not currently have a name. Because of the dedication and hard work the Hancocks put into improving this location, the panel deems it as worthy to be named after these individuals. This will be a onetime use of the individuals' names.

A(8) Support the preferred practice of honoring individual citizens through naming of internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces. Naming a public building, facility, or park for a living person is not favored.

The scenic overlook is located within an existing municipal park. While Mavis Hancock is still living, given the amount of effort she continually puts into maintaining the flowers and landscaping of this area, the panel believes it is fitting to recognize her service through this lasting commemoration. Howard Hancock passed away Thanksgiving of 2010, and the panel would like to see that his work in the parks of Government Hill is recognized. The panel notes that Howard was instrumental in ensuring Government Hill maintained its many beautiful vistas.

A(9) Renaming of a public place, road or street should not be considered within 20 years of the previous naming.

The Panel's recommendation does not rename a public space.

B(1) Names of persons who, through exemplary and substantial effort, have made a significant contribution to the community or the parks and recreation department or who have made a substantial donation to acquisition or development of the property.

Howard and Mavis Hancock have been key volunteers and volunteer organizers when it comes to maintaining the parks of Government hill. Mavis Hancock, who is over eighty years old, still devotes considerable amounts of time to the gardens at the Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park, and served for over twenty years as the chair of the Government Hill Community Council's Parks Committee.

B(2) Organizations that have made a substantial donation to the acquisition or development of the property;

The panel's recommendation does not involve an organization, but Crowley has committed to donating \$500 to renaming the overlook. The overlook views the Crowley facility. Other donations will be solicited.

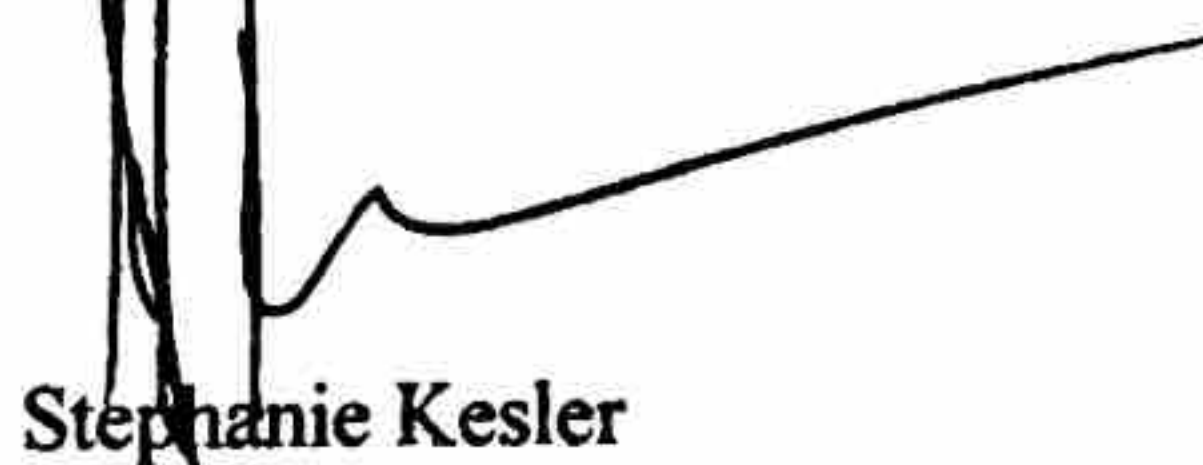
B(3) Incorporating the geographic, natural or geological feature as part of the name to assist the public in recognizing the location.

The proposed name of the "Howard and Mavis Denali Overlook" incorporates the geographic feature as part of its name and highlights the overlook as a asset to the Government Hill community. A location that has gone long unrecognized because it has been without a name.

The naming panel unanimously urges the overlook located within the Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park to be named the "Howard and Mavis Denali Overlook".



Bob French
Assembly Designee



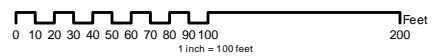
Stephanie Kesler
Mayor's Designee



Steve Gerlek
Assembly Designee



Nancy Schweiker
Mayor's Designee



Suzan Nightingale McKay
Memorial Park



Municipal Clerk's Office

Approved

Date: 07/26/2016

Submitted by: Assembly Member Flynn

Prepared by: Assembly Counsel

For reading: July 26, 2016

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2016-203

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY APPOINTING A
CITIZEN NAMING PANEL FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE SCENIC
OVERLOOK AT SUZAN NIGHTINGALE-MCKAY PARK.**

WHEREAS, the Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park is the fantastic park located on Government Hill with the eye-catching Woolly Mammoth Playground, and home to the Sydney Laurence Monument; and

WHEREAS, the Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park is dear to the Government Hill community as a neighborhood park, and local appreciation is reflected in the beautifully maintained flower garden; and

WHEREAS, the west end triangle of the 1.36-acre Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park offers a brilliant mountain overlook with views of Denali, Foraker, and Hunter, enjoyed by park visitors throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Code 3.97.025 supports the practice of honorary naming of internal areas and integral features of parks, subject to advisory review by the Parks and Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood representatives are interested in exploring the honorary naming of this mountain overlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park, and it is appropriate to establish a naming panel as set out in AMC Chapter 3.97;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY HEREBY RESOLVES:

The Anchorage Assembly requests that a citizen naming panel be convened to assist the Assembly and the community with the honorary naming the mountain outlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park, under the procedures set out in AMC Chapter 3.97.

1. Anchorage residents Bob French and Steve Gerlek are selected by the Assembly for this Naming Panel.
2. The Mayor's Office designees to this Naming Panel are Stephanie Kesler and Nancy Schweiker.

