

**UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UACC)
RESOLUTION 2022-02**

**SUPPORT FOR AREAWIDE BOND PROPOSAL FOR CEMETERIES IN
GIRDWOOD, EAGLE RIVER AND ANCHORAGE**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Municipal Charter Art, VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; **and**,

WHEREAS, Community Councils are intended to reflect actual neighborhoods and provide guidance advice on management of lands within their boundaries; **and**,

WHEREAS, Community Councils may support actions by other community councils as well as the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) that are also of interest to the University Area Community Council; **and**,

WHEREAS, in 2015 voters in Girdwood voters passed an ordinance allowing the GBOS powers to tax property owners to establish and maintain a cemetery in Girdwood by an unprecedented 68.7% in favor; **and**,

WHEREAS, the GBOS established a committee, The Girdwood Cemetery Committee, which pursued the goal of establishing a cemetery whose meetings are open to the public and which reports regularly to the GBOS; **and**,

WHEREAS, public land was chosen from several offered sites from the Municipality of Anchorage's Heritage Land Bank after extensive public process; **and**,

WHEREAS, the GBOS expended public funds for the environmental study which proved the suitability of the chosen site; **and**,

WHEREAS, communication and consultation has been maintained with the Director of the Anchorage Memorial Park and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board since 2002; **and**,

WHEREAS, a design and construction cost estimate was created for a multi-phase development plan for the establishment of the Cemetery in 2019; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Daily News reported in 2020 that the Anchorage Memorial Park had space for public burials for five more years; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee has reached out with community councils in Chugiak and Eagle River who expressed their wishes to establish a cemetery in the northern part of the Municipality of Anchorage, has shared information, participated in their public process, and has helped coordinate efforts toward that goal; **and**,

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee has also coordinated efforts with the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board to help promote needed improvements for the Anchorage Memorial Park; **and**,

WHEREAS, through the coordinated efforts of the Girdwood Cemetery Committee, the Eagle River and Chugiak Community Councils, and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board, a bond proposal is being developed to fund the establishment of a cemetery in Girdwood at an estimated cost of \$5M, a cemetery in Eagle River and for renovations and improvements at the Anchorage Memorial Park.

NOW THEREFORE the UACC hereby resolves: To support the requests by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee, the Eagle River and Chugiak Community Councils, and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board to place an areawide bond for those projects on the Spring 2023 Municipality of Anchorage Areawide Ballot.

Resolution Vote: For: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 0

This resolution was approved by the University Area Community Council this 7th day of December, 2022.



Tyler Robinson, President, UACC