

June 6, 2003

Honorable Mark Begich
Mayor-elect, MOA
P. O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650

Dear Mayor-Elect Begich,

Government Hill greatly appreciates your invitation to provide you with a list of our top five neighborhood concerns. After much discussion and input, we pared down our not insubstantial list of issues to the five that are delineated below. We have also attached a second page that provides additional detail on each issue. Note: we did not prioritize or rank our issues. They are all important and interrelated.

Government Hill's Five Concerns are as follows:

- **Tank Farm Hazards Study:**
We request that you follow up on the recommendations of the City's Tank Farm Hazard Study.
- **Transportation, Access Roads, Trails, and Process.**
Government Hill has strong concerns regarding the approach road to the proposed Knik Arm Crossing, the AMATS planning process, proposed access to the Port, and the lack of public process in the Bluff Road closure. We also strongly support the completion of the Ship Creek Trail including the Government Hill Spur.
- **Port of Anchorage Expansion Plans.**
We request that the Mayor examine the latest Port of Anchorage expansion plans to ensure compliance with the Anchorage 2020 Plan, and the existing Port of Anchorage Master Plan approved by the Municipal Assembly.
- **Integrity and History of the Neighborhood.**
We urge the Mayor's support for preserving the integrity of neighborhoods and their historic areas and structures.
- **Alaska Railroad Land Use and Leasing Policies.**
The Alaska Railroad should be required to comply with Municipality of Anchorage Planning, Zoning and Air Quality ordinances. The Alaska Railroad Corporation is a major landholder in our neighborhood and their land use, management, leasing policies and operations can adversely affect the quality of life and character of Government Hill.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We will be happy to provide additional clarification.

FIVE PRIMARY ISSUES FOR GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

TANK FARM HAZARDS STUDY:

We request that the Mayor follow up on the recommendations of the City's Tank Farm Hazard Study (Officially "Hazard Study for the Bulk POL Facilities in the Port of Anchorage", by Golder & Associates), including:

- Direct the city fire marshal to conduct a detailed audit of the POL facilities and report findings to the Hazard Study Stakeholders committee;
- Convene a meeting of the executive management of all stakeholders to investigate coordinating and integrating their separate planning efforts into a single, comprehensive plan for North Ship Creek.

TRANSPORTATION, ACCESS ROADS, TRAILS, AND PROCESS:

There are at least two major transportation projects that threaten the integrity, livability, and physical boundaries of the Government Hill neighborhood. These projects include the Knik Arm bridge approach road and the Ship Creek access (Port of Anchorage) road. Despite our active efforts to participate in and stay informed about these projects, we have been continually frustrated and excluded from the planning process. We urge the following:

- Include affected stakeholders and communities early and throughout the planning and implementation of transportation projects, including increased and meaningful public participation in the AMATS process;
- Complete the Ship Creek Trail, including the spur trail to Government Hill;
- Re-examine the public process used during the closure of Bluff Road, and hold a community meeting in the "affected community" as required by Assembly ordinance.

PORT OF ANCHORAGE EXPANSION PLANS:

We request that the Mayor examine the latest Port of Anchorage expansion plans to ensure compliance with the Anchorage 2020 Plan, and the existing Port of Anchorage Master Plan approved by the Municipal Assembly. We realize that maintenance and minor expansion may be necessary for continued efficient and economic port operations. However these plans need to:

- Minimize disruption to Port users and to adjacent neighborhoods;
- Utilize proven engineering design;
- Address economic need, funding and Municipal bonding needs;
- Work with Port users and neighborhood residents to ensure that their input is included in the planning efforts.
- Recommend that the Municipality of Anchorage, rather than the Port of Anchorage, acquire title to the "Defense Fuels" site. Such acquisition would extend the safety buffer zone and open space between the neighborhood, the POL facilities and the Port. It would also provide for commercial and industrial development, and Port expansion at the mid and lower portions of the site.

INTEGRITY AND HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD:

We urge the Mayor's support to preserve the integrity of neighborhoods and their historic areas and structures. On Government Hill that includes:

- Preserving Brown's Point Cottages and Brown's Point Park on site;
- Supporting efforts of residents and the Assembly to create "Neighborhood Conservation Districts";
- Supporting efforts to preserve the "Wireless Buildings";
- Support listing of Brown's Point Cottages on the listing of National Register of Historic Places, and designation as one of Alaska's 10 Most Endangered Historic Sites, 2002.

RAILROAD LAND USE AND LEASING POLICIES:

The Alaska Railroad Corporation must be required to comply with Municipality of Anchorage Planning, Zoning and Air Quality ordinances. The Alaska Railroad Corporation is a major landholder in our Neighborhood and their land use, management, leasing policies and operations can adversely affect the quality of life and character of our neighborhood.

We appreciate the Alaska Railroad Corporations Community Outreach programs, efforts to improve community relations and to include the GHCC community in their planning efforts, but these recent efforts have not, as yet, had much effect.