Huffman/O'Malley Community Council It's your HOCC! December 2011 Newsletter

Wishing You All a Merry Christmas and a Wonderful Holiday Season!

November Recap:

We met in our new meeting location - Shepherd of the Hills Church. Thank you Pastor Voss for making this transition seamless! The room is bright and homey - perfect for meetings.

We enjoyed an update on the AWWU reservoir, discussion on the Elmore/Huffman intersection safety; local transportation issues including bus service; and discussion about the proposed new Huffman roundabouts.

Streets and Highways Plan Public Hearing

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Members of the HOCC reviewed the **Public Review Draft** 2035 Metropolitan Transporation Plan (MTP) and provided the MOA and State of Alaska comments about what projects the HOCC want completed, what not to be completed, and what priority the projects should be. Special attention was devoted to reviewing plans for new bus routes, bike trials and multi-use pathways within the HOCC and South Anchorage. A **Public Hearing Draft** MTP, theoretically revised based on received comments, will be issued in December and the HOCC intends to review it as well. MTP documents can be accessed at the following MOA web site: http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/Pages/2035MTPDocuments.aspx

Hot Button Issue - Title 21

Public Hearings on the Title 21 revision will begin on Monday, Dec 12. These meetings are held by the Planning and Zoning Commission at the Loussac Library Assembly Chambers. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm. The Assembly Chambers are located on the first floor of the Library. Everyone is encouraged to look at the proposed revisions, which will affect our lives in many ways and will guide our future development. You can find them at the Municipalities website

www.muni.org or at: http://www.muni.org/departments/ocpd/planning/pages/default.aspx.

Comments can be submitted in writing or in person at any Public Hearing. We urge you to become involved in this process that will shape our future and affect our pocketbooks!

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Upcoming Meeting - Thursday Dec 15th

The next Huffman/O'Malley meeting will be held Thursday, December 15, at 7 pm. Items on the agenda will include our Resolution regarding potential new Huffman Road roundabouts; our Title 21 revision response; continuing concerns regarding intersection safety at Huffman and Elmore; and KABATA's potential effects on future road improvements funding.

Remember the new meeting location at Shepherd of the Hills Church, corner of Elmore and Klatt Roads! Enter through the front door, turn left into the sanctuary, and find the stairs in the back. We meet in the large room at the bottom of the stairs.

If you have an issue you would like to have the Council address, please contact hoccpresident@gmail.com or attend the meeting.

Vocabulary of the Month: "Transition and Buffering Standards"

Title 21 lines out what may and may not be done on properties within the Anchorage Bowl. But what do you do when you want to put a residential structure next to a strip mall, or a school next to a neighborhood? What about a multi-family housing project in a neighborhood of single-family homes? Horses next to a subdivision? How to you lessen the impact of these two conflicting land uses?

Title 21 offers the solution in 21.45.200 "Transition and buffering standards". The goal is to mitigate the impacts of non-residential land uses upon residential uses, and of more intense residential land uses upon lower density uses.

When two adjacent lots will have different uses - even if those lots have a street separating them - these are called "incompatibilities". Buffering must be used to lessen the visual, noise, traffic and environmental impacts. The onus is on the new user to offset these impacts through a "transition" space, also known as a "buffer".

A buffer should materially obscure the visual outlines of the structures on the more intensively developed lot and lessen the noise emanating from that lot. This transition space can be open space, a vegetative buffer, topographic barriers or screening (solid fences).

The Planning & Zoning Commission, using the recommendations of the Planning Department and suggestions from the community, decide which "special limitations" will be demanded, and the "SL" designation will be included in the result.

Is there a word or acronym you would like defined? Let us know by contacting <u>HOCCnewslettereditor@gmail.com</u>

HOCC - Area Crime Statistics

We provide these monthly crime statistics so that we all understand what is happening in our area and take appropriate precautions. Theft is a continuing problem that we should all be aware of. We know you appreciate the updates, and thank you for your feedback.

These are the compiled crime statistics for the HOCC-area (Nov. 1 through Nov. 29). The cumulative amount of reported offenses (beginning December 17, 2010 to date) are in parentheses.

Theft Reports: 9 (60)

Assaults: 1 (16)

Purgs: 1 (7)

Vehicle Theft: 0 (7)

Liquor violations: 0 (2)

Disturbances: 3 (21)

Weapon Offense: 0 (3)

Fraud/Forgery: 0 (10) DUI: 0 (1)

Vandalism: 3 (15) Disorderly conduct: 0 (1)

Other Undefined Offenses: 11 (9) Prostitution: 0 (3)

Reports of thefts, followed by burglaries and disturbances, continue to out pace other crimes. If you are a crime victim, please be sure to report it to the Anchorage Police Department so that the information is logged into the MOA's crime statistics database.

HOCC also wants to remind everyone that the APD does not log reports unless you ask for a case number. Please remember, if you are making any police report regarding anything from noise to vandalism or suspicious behavior, always ask for a case number.

Compiled by Wayne Crayton, HOCC Steering Committee Member. Information is from Anchorage Police Department records at http://crimemap.muni.org/

From the President's Desk

As the old year comes to a close and a new year awaits, many of us make resolutions. What are our goals for the coming year? What do we hope to accomplish?

We Alaskans are in a great place, comparatively speaking. While the rest of the United States are in a depression - or a recession, depending on what measure one uses - we are enjoying a healthy economy and a fairly strong housing market. Yes, we have our share of problems. But unlike places like Phoenix and Las Vegas, where over 30% of the homes are somewhere in the foreclosure process, our market is only slightly devalued. While Outside is faced with high unemployment, ours rates are relatively low.

Yes, we have our problems. Will we ever see increased oil and gas production? How will our elected leaders create rules and regulations that will encourage business and economic development? How can we lessen the financial strain of an economy that depends upon property tax payers? How do we protect our seniors and those in need? How do we reform our schools?

These issues and more await us in the New Year.

I hope that one of your Resolutions is to become more involved in your community.

Whether you put some time into your PTA, your homeowner's organization, your favorite charity, your community council or your church, the gift of your time and talents is priceless. Yes, you

can make a difference. All it takes is a bit of your strength to improve our home, our state and our country.

Merry Christmas to all, and a wonderful New Year.

Pete Nolan, President Huffman/O'Malley Community Council hoccpresident@gmail.com

Just a Random Thought... Colored lights on palm trees and Santa in flip-flops and sunglasses... Nah. I prefer a white Christmas.

Welcome New Members!

Thanks you for your support! Dues paying members are vital to our mission of two-way conversation and grassroots community input.

If you are not yet a dues-paying member, simply use the form at the bottom of this newsletter. Membership fee is only \$10 per person each year, and yes, we do accept larger contributions (please see instructions below). For our "snail mail" residents, you can become an "email person" by just letting us know, and save us some postage in the process!

And remember to contact us with your comments and concerns, because YOU CAN make a difference! Feel free to pass this e-Newsletter on to your neighbors, then remind them to join.

Yes, I want to become a contributing member of HOCC Enclosed is my contribution of \$10 per person for this year.

Name:	
Physical Address:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone (home & other)	
E-Mail	
Comments & Concerns:	

Mail to: Huffman/O'Malley Community Council, 1120 Huffman Road, Suite 24, PMB 420, Anchorage, AK 99515

Please note: Donations in a higher amount are greatly appreciated and accepted. For donations to be tax deductible, please make your check out to: FCC (Federation of Community Councils) on behalf of "Huffman O'Malley Community Council". Please send this donation to the above mailing address and a tax deductible receipt will be provided. Thank You!