

**Turnagain Community Council Resolution
Regarding Request for Installation of
Recognition Plaques at Lyn Ary Memorial Garden to Honor
Michelle Byrum and Bob Durst**

Whereas, in October of 1998, Vicki Byrum and the local chapter of the National Association of Catering Executives applied to the Municipality of Anchorage to create a memorial garden on the northwest edge of Lyn Ary Park located in Turnagain in memory of Vicki's daughter, Michelle Byrum, a young woman who died on March 18, 1998, from injuries sustained in an automobile collision caused by a drunk driver; and

Whereas, the recent deaths of two teenage girls in Anchorage also caused as a result of drunk driving has served as a reminder of the circumstances associated with the creation of the Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden, but also of the lack of recognition at the memorial garden site honoring Michelle Byrum; and

Whereas, in 2007, TCC donated and installed an arbor at the entrance of Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden in memory of Bob Durst, a TCC Board Member and dedicated volunteer advocate and caretaker of the Lyn Ary Park ball fields and memorial garden, who passed away January 6, 2007; and

Whereas, TCC and TREErific Anchorage collaborated with Vicki Byrum and the Municipality of Anchorage Parks Department on a revitalization and tree planting project at Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden in 2007, and TCC volunteers have since put in many hours of volunteer time to maintain the memorial garden; and

Whereas, the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan, approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission February 7, 2011, includes information on the history of the Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden and its recognition of both Michelle Byrum and Bob Durst's connection to the garden;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Turnagain Community Council requests that the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department work with TCC and the Byrum family on the design, language and placement of a plaque recognizing the creation of Lyn Ary Park Memorial Garden to serve as a reminder that Michelle Byrum's life was lost as a result of drunk driving; as a tribute to her mother, Vicki Byrum, who passed away in 2012; and to recognize community efforts to protect, enhance and maintain the beautiful garden located along the Coastal Trail. TCC also requests the placement of a plaque on the park arbor as a tribute to Bob Durst and his important contributions to Lyn Ary Park and the Turnagain neighborhood.

PASSED AND APPROVED by Turnagain Community Council at its regularly scheduled meeting this 5th day of September 2013.

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

Respectfully,

Cathy L. Gleason, President
Turnagain Community Council