

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone 907-714-2160
Fax 907-714-2388

Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Charlie Pierce, Vice President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Linda Murphy, Assembly Member *L.M. for L. M.*

DATE: March 1, 2011

RE: Ordinance 2010-19-35 (Murphy) Substitute, Appropriating Supplemental Funding to Cover Estimated Cost to be Incurred to the Borough's Health Care Plan Due to Changes Mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

As I noted at our February 1 meeting, I asked the borough attorney to prepare an amendment for Ordinance 2010-19-35, eliminating the sections that would have created a new position in the human resources department. Because the changes were so extensive, Ms. Montague opted to create a substitute ordinance instead, and that ordinance is now before you for your consideration.

My reason for requesting this change to the original ordinance is twofold. First and foremost, I do not believe an ordinance appropriating funds to cover the unanticipated costs associated with the new federal health care legislation is the proper way to introduce the request for a new full time position within the borough administration. New positions have generally been authorized within the resolution approving the new job description, and I can see no reason to deviate from that course.

This brings me to my second reason for introducing the substitute ordinance. On the one hand, we really have no choice but to provide the needed funding to cover our health insurance obligations. However, the subject of adding permanent positions in this economic climate is, and should be, debatable. I would prefer to have this discussion after we have a new general services director in place and once that new director has had ample time to determine if, in fact, the new position is needed. Until that time, I am unable to lend my support to the Mayor's request for this new position.