

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: Brent Johnson, Assembly Member *BJ for BJ*

DATE: April 5, 2011

RE: Ordinance 2011-07; reducing the number of Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commissioners from 13 to 11

In 2001 planning commission membership was increased from 11 to 13. The number 13 resulted from retaining a planning commissioner from each home rule or first class city in the borough, which totals five commissioners. AS 29.40.020 requires that the number of planning commissioners from within the home rule and first class cities be proportionate to the home rule and first class city population; however, the statute does not require each city to have its own representative. In order for representation on the planning commission to meet this requirement it was necessary to have eight nonarea-wide planning commissioners.

Having served on the planning commission for 15 years I am aware that the work of the commission can be accomplished with fewer than 13 commissioners. Seldovia has few items on the planning commission agenda and is the most costly seat to accommodate due to travel expenses. It could save the borough approximately \$16,000 - \$20,000 to combine the Seldovia and Homer seats and eliminate one seat from outside of the cities. By reducing the number of city representatives by one, the borough can also reduce the number of commissioners outside the cities by one. I am proposing to combine the Seldovia and Homer seats and the Sterling and Ridgway seats. Both the Seldovia and Sterling terms end in 2012, the proposed effective date of the ordinance, so no commissioner's term would be truncated by this ordinance.

Your consideration of this cost saving measure is appreciated.