

From: richardmcgahan
To: [Commission, Boundary \(CED sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [Stacy Oliva](#); [Michele Hartline](#); [Wayne Ogle](#); [Paul Huber](#); [Dan Gregory](#); [Amber Douglas](#); [Terry Gifford](#); [jacknbon@gmail.com](#); [Mike Bauer](#); [Norm Olson](#); [Jason Ross](#); [Heidi Covey](#); [Bill Stevens](#)
Subject: Nikiski Incorporation Comments
Date: Sunday, August 27, 2017 9:42:30 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

From:

Karen S. McGahan

53 year Nikiski Resident

Former 3 term Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Member

Former Nikiski Fire Service Area Board Member

Commercial Fisherman- Nikiski

Currently employed at KSRM Radio Group

Comments:

I don't claim to be politically correct, nor do I claim to be able to ascertain what is in other's minds, so this is my opinion only.

The citizens for incorporating Nikiski have gone through 2 years of time, money and effort to follow every rule set up by the state, in order to vote on the issue of incorporation.

Voting is a sacred privilege in our country. After every rule has been followed for Nikiski citizens to vote on whether they want to incorporate, the only roadblock in my opinion, appears to be political.

The brief filed by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor, Mike Navarre, seems to have blocked the effort. I'm an old friend of Mayor Navarre's, and enjoy him personally, but this is not about personalities, this is about the sacred privilege of voting, that we hold dear. Last week, at the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting, Mayor Navarre stated that he did not have a problem with this issue going to a vote for the Nikiski citizens. He just wanted the residents to know the consequences of incorporation.

For the record, the citizens for incorporation of Nikiski are not a bunch of morons. They did not jump into this effort without first spending money to ascertain if this would be a benefit to the citizens of Nikiski, economically, and socially. The first money was spent on an economic budget analysis by Northern Economics, a well respected financial firm. The next money was spent on a legal analysis by a well respected legal firm. Town Hall meetings were held and the citizens are ready for self determination and local representation.

Mayor Navarre's assertion that he just wanted to inform us of the consequences of incorporation is rather insulting, and rings hollow. Also, his figures are wrong.

Nikiski was the first road service area formed in the borough. As has been stated before, the Kenai Peninsula Borough merged the next service areas to form with Nikiski to take advantage of the tax base from our area. Mayor Navarre's brief mentions the percentage of taxes that the rest of the borough would lose if Nikiski incorporates and takes on our own road powers. This is his major concern and it's in regards to the road service area. However, he does not count in that brief the benefit in funds the borough would gain by not serving Nikiski roads. When the Nikiski area incorporates and serves our own roads, it will actually benefit the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and deducting that changes the figures submitted by Mayor Navarre significantly.

Again, Mayor Navarre stated publicly that he has no objection to our citizens voting on incorporating.

I am asking that this effort goes forward so that we can vote on whether to have local government, and self determination, as mandated by the Alaska State Constitution.

Karen S. McGahan
Nikiski