

Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)

From: Ron Loesch [captainron389@yahoo.com]
To: Commission, Boundary (CED sponsored)
Cc:
Subject: In favor of Psg. Boro
Attachments:

Sent: Mon 10/24/2011 9:38 AM

October 23, 2011

Local Boundary Commission
 550 West Seventh Ave., Suite 1770
 Anchorage, AK 99501-3510



Re: Borough Formation by City of Petersburg

Dear Members of the Local Boundary Commission,

As a 35-year resident of the City of Petersburg, I support borough formation as proposed by the City of Petersburg.

As co-publisher of the newspaper of record for Petersburg, our publication, *Petersburg Pilot*, is circulated within the proposed boundaries. During the time borough formation has been under consideration, we have published news stories about the petition and letters to the editor from citizens living throughout the proposed borough boundaries about the petition before you.

We not only publish a print edition each week, but maintain a public access website, petersburgpilot.com as well.

I feel the City of Petersburg meets the required standards for Incorporation of Boroughs.

Petersburg provides a hub of retail, professional, medical and public services that are available to everyone within the proposed borough boundaries. It would be accurate to say that many persons living in remote areas of the proposed borough would not do so if the City of Petersburg did not exist. Fuel purchases, mail pick-up, repair services and basic supplies & commodities are available in Petersburg and would be more difficult to access in Wrangell, Kake, or Juneau.

Frequently emergency medical services are called out from Petersburg to the outlying areas of the proposed borough. Our first responders have answered calls to a helicopter crash near Hobart Bay, numerous fires on Kupreanof Island and search and rescues throughout the region between Wrangell and Juneau.

Transportation services are readily available to everyone within the proposed borough. Many families operate their own boats or skiffs on the area waterways and others make use of charter services for access to remote sites. At least three local operators provide floatplane transport to remote areas of the proposed borough.

The best interests of the state are met because Petersburg is an established local government unit that has operated successfully for over a century. Petersburg provides a full range of services typical of a city of its size and has even taken over the Sandy Beach roadway and the local boat harbors that were formerly owned by the State of Alaska.

Petersburg has presented a realistic picture of its financial position in its petition and has not exaggerated the expected revenue or expense sides of the ledger. I am very pleased that the 4-mil tax levy proposed by the borough will pass through the borough to the Petersburg school district, which already educate students from the outlying area.

In conclusion, I am troubled by Juneau's recent decision to petition for lands north of Petersburg that encroach on Petersburg's proposed borough boundaries. It was logical for Petersburg to include these lands in their borough proposal, so as not to leave a gap or enclave of land between the two boroughs that is a part of the unorganized borough.

Furthermore, Petersburg has a tradition of use of lands and waterways within the northern extremes of the proposed boundaries for homesteads, fox farms, commercial fishing, sport fishing, hunting and subsistence uses. Local charter boats regularly transit the waters between Cape Fanshaw and Holkham Bay for whale watching, sport fishing and multi-recreational tours that include all of the above plus, kayaking, sightseeing, wildlife viewing and photography tours.

I ask the Local Boundary Commission for favorable consideration of the petition before you.

Sincerely,

Ron Loesch
1023 Sandy Beach Road
Petersburg, Alaska 99833