



MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Boundary Commission

DATE: Friday, March 08, 2024

FROM: Jedediah R. Smith, Local Government
Specialist IV

RE: City of Tanana reclassification request

On Tuesday, February 27, 2024, LBC staff received an email with attachments from the acting city clerk in Tanana, requesting the city be reclassified from a first-class city to a second-class city under the procedures in AS 29.04.045 and regulations recently adopted by the Local Boundary Commission. The package included adopted minutes from the city council's February 21, 2024 meeting, at which a resolution requesting the reclassification was approved by a vote of 4-0 by the city council, a letter from the acting clerk, requesting the change, and certified population statistics from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), listing Tanana's population of 246 residents. Tanana also stated in the resolution that it does not intend to exercise powers of planning, platting and land use as provided in AS 29.35.260(b).

As a first class city in the unorganized borough, Tanana is currently obligated to operate a city-school district. According to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), the Full Value Determination of the community is listed at \$17,347,442, and the required minimum local contribution to the school district for Tanana is \$45,971. DEED listed the Average Daily Membership for Tanana at 26 students. According to a State of Alaska Grants and Funding status report, Tanana received \$80,468.58 in Community Assistance Program payments in FY2023. Reclassification as a second class city would not change the city's eligibility under the program.

As a second class city in the unorganized borough, the City of Tanana will be prohibited from operating a school district. It may exercise any other power not otherwise prohibited by law, per AS 29.35.260(a). General municipal powers are listed in AS 29.35.010.

If this reclassification request is approved by the Commission, by determining Tanana is eligible for reclassification, LBC staff will, within 30 days, issue notice to the community that it is eligible. If the city council does not reject the eligibility notice within 30 days of notification, it will become effective on July 1, 2024.

LBC staff, with the Division of Community and Regional Affairs' Mapping, Analytics and Data staff will begin work to reapportion the Yukon Koyukuk School District, the REAA in which Tanana will become a part. That reapportionment plan will include a public process with proposed maps of reapportioned districts to ensure equitable representation on the REAA school board.

LBC staff has determined that Tanana is eligible for reclassification under AS 29.04.045, and recommends approval by the Commission.