

**SUBJECT:** WARREN "BUD" WOODS PALMER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AVIGATION  
EASEMENT

**AGENDA OF:** 5/18/2021

**ASSEMBLY ACTION:**

*Presented to the Assembly. 5.18.21 KBJ*

**MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:** For information only.

**APPROVED BY MICHAEL BROWN, BOROUGH MANAGER:** *MB*

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator: MIKE BROWN	<i>MB</i>	
	Community Development Director: ERIC PHILLIPS	<i>EP</i>	
	Borough Attorney	<i>NS</i>	
	Borough Clerk	<i>Sum 5/11/21</i>	<i>KBS</i>

**ATTACHMENT(S):** LETTER FROM MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TO THE CITY  
OF PALMER (P.1)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

LETTER FROM THE BOROUGH TO THE CITY OF PALMER EXPRESSING A  
COMMITMENT TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE CITY TO EXPLORE OPTIONS  
ADDRESSING THE WARREN "BUD" WOODS PALMER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT'S  
CONCERNS ABOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE TREES AT THE MATANUSKA RIVER  
PARK.



## **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

### **Office of the Borough Manager**

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[Mike.Brown@matsugov.us](mailto:Mike.Brown@matsugov.us)

May 7, 2021

Re: Warren "Bud" Woods Palmer Municipal Airport Avigation Easement

Dear Mr. Moosey:

This letter is being sent to express the commitment of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to work with the City of Palmer addressing safety concerns at Warren "Bud" Woods Municipal Airport. Palmer has informed the Borough that the threshold of Runway 16 had to be displaced by 500 feet to provide for a safe approach, due to interference from trees in the Borough's Matanuska River Park. Palmer also informed the Borough that tree growth has made it such that some trees may now penetrate this displaced approach surface.

The Borough recognizes the importance of the City's airport as a regional aviation asset and wants to support safe operations at the airport, including full utilization of existing infrastructure. At the same time, it is important for the Borough to maintain the quality of the Park for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. It is our intent to work in cooperation with the City to explore alternatives for full utilization of the runway, while ensuring that the Park is still available for residents and visitors to enjoy.

We anticipate that these alternatives may include selective tree removal, a new avigation easement, or perhaps other solutions. It is also anticipated that any agreement for an avigation easement and subsequent tree removal will include mitigation for the loss of the trees satisfactory to the Borough; will address the number of impacted trees over the next five to ten years; will assess the number of additional trees damaged and/or killed in accessing, felling and removing trees within the proposed avigation easement; and will provide any collateral effects of removing trees (e.g. effects to trees remaining impacted by wind that were previously shielded by larger surrounding trees identified for removal).

In the event there is a proposed avigation easement, it is expected that the proposed easement will satisfy Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act. The agreement will need to be acceptable to the Federal Aviation Administration as the primary funding source of the undertaking and will include a public involvement process to adequately communicate alternatives and solicit public input.

Any proposal must also be approved by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly. The Borough's commitment is to work with the City of Palmer and cooperatively explore solutions. There is no funding committed for this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Brown  
Borough Manager

*1M 21-094*