

Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 25-120**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO ANNEX THE CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER AREA INTO THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH.

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WHEREAS, there is a proposal forming by a group of concerned and affected residents of the Chugiak-Eagle River area ("the Sponsors") to annex that area into the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, there has been a long history of cooperative and collaborative relations between the residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough ("Mat-Su") and the residents of Chugiak-Eagle River area ("CER") spanning decades; and

WHEREAS, in the 1940s and 1950s, the CER area was settled by farmers moving in from Palmer and the road to CER and on to Anchorage was known as the Palmer Hwy; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, when the Anchorage Electric and Telephone utilities were requested to expand their services to cover the CER area but declined, CER turned to the Mat-Su utilities which resulted in the presence of M.E.A. and M.T.A. in CER; and

WHEREAS, with Alaska statehood and new constitution local areas were encouraged to form their own governments and in 1974, the people of CER voted to form a local government for the area; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 the CER's new government was voided by the Alaska Supreme Court in *Abrams v. State*, 534 P.2d 91 (1975); and

WHEREAS, the people of CER did not reach out to Mat-Su to be annexed because in 1975 the City of Anchorage and the Greater Anchorage Area Borough unified into the Municipality of Anchorage and CER became a part of it; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsors report that CER was told that it would be recognized as uniquely independent even after unification; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsors report that CER has been primarily self-supporting through service areas covering roads, parks and fire with the State Department of Transportation maintaining the collector roads; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsors report that the Anchorage Municipality has been reversing its position on the autonomy of CER resulting in the reversal of latitude of functioning, imposing ordinances not applicable to CER, disregarding CER Community Councils, disregarding the CER Comprehensive Plan which has resulted in the Sponsors, and other people of CER wishing to disconnect with Anchorage and be part of another established borough; and

WHEREAS, Mat-Su is invested in economic growth; and

WHEREAS, Mat-Su is interested in development opportunities for the benefit of the borough and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsors report that CER has a long history of self-sufficiency and fiscal management, as seen by its development

and service areas; and

WHEREAS, the Sponsors have been pursuing separating from Anchorage for many years and have submitted preliminary documentation in doing so to the State Local Boundary Commission, which requests feedback from the Mat-Su.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska Susitna Borough is interested in initiating discussions and considerations about annexing Chugiak-Eagle River into the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2025.

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)