

# FACT SHEET

## CITY OF FAIRBANKS ANNEXATION



### ***PURPOSES OF ANNEXATION:***

1. To extend full City services to two areas which are already *de facto* parts of the City and receive benefit of city services. The two areas are referred to as the Fred Meyer Subdivision (“FMS”) and the “Enclave Lots.” Maps of both areas are attached. The FMS, pictured above, includes three businesses: the Fred Meyer West store, Taco Bell and a branch of Mt. McKinley Bank. The Safeway store and several ancillary retail facilities, in the foreground of the picture, are **within** the City limits.
2. To strengthen the ability of the existing City to provide essential municipal services to the vast majority of Interior residents who live, work, shop, attend schools, or engage in recreation in the City.

### ***ANNEXATION WILL PROVIDE IMPROVED PUBLIC SAFETY:***

1. Marc Dumas MD, an emergency medical specialist, testified that City paramedics provide a higher level of service than UFSA EMT students (from sub-station that is not always staffed). No other doctor testified to the contrary.
2. The FMS is within national response standards for EMS and fire service. The Manager of the Sophie Station Hotel/Apartments – located further south on South University Avenue. – wrote a letter of support, noting the good service they receive.
3. City is the only provider of bank robbery deterrent system to serve banks at FMS.

4. Any major incident in our community requires mutual aide, which remains in place.
5. **The City Police Department offers a far higher level of police service than provided by the Alaska State Troopers—nearly three times the number of officers per capita.** The Troopers have approximately 52 budgeted Trooper positions for the entire “D Detachment” which includes over 100,000 people in 205,000 square miles with 30 Alaska Native villages and 20 highway communities. The Troopers also submitted a letter of support.

### ***EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT***

- **None of the affected property owners at the Fred Meyer Subdivision filed any written or oral objection to the Local Boundary Commission regarding the annexation.** (*Fred Meyer and Mt. McKinley Bank made comments prior to the petition being filed but took no further formal action during the public process*).
- **On more than 17 occasions,** opportunity was extended to the public to make comments through advertising and/or public meetings. The process has met and exceeded requirements for public involvement and transparency.
- There were **over forty articles** in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* regarding the annexation and several stories on our two local television news stations.
- At the City Council meeting to consider the resolution to annex, only eight people commented, and a mere 13 comments were made during the FNSB’s meeting to consider a resolution in opposition. A total of **30 people commented at the LBC Public Hearing.** Compare that number to the throngs of people who have crammed City and Borough chambers recently regarding air quality, dumpster-diving, cell phone towers, junkyard ordinances or the use of fluoride in the water system.
- The Local Boundary Commission and the City had **direct written communication** with affected property owners on **four separate occasions.**

### ***MINIMAL IMPACT ON EXISTING BOROUGH***

- The annexation will have a minimal impact on the University Fire Service Area 2010 budget: a 2.38% reduction of **\$52,000** from their \$2,188,040 budget. The University Fire Service area has the **largest budget of the five fire service areas** formed by the Fairbanks North Star Borough.
- The loss of revenue to the Fairbanks North Star Borough is less than **one-quarter of one percent** of their annual 132 million dollar budget.

### ***ANNEXATION MEETS CURRENT LEGAL STANDARDS SET BY STATUTE & REGULATION***

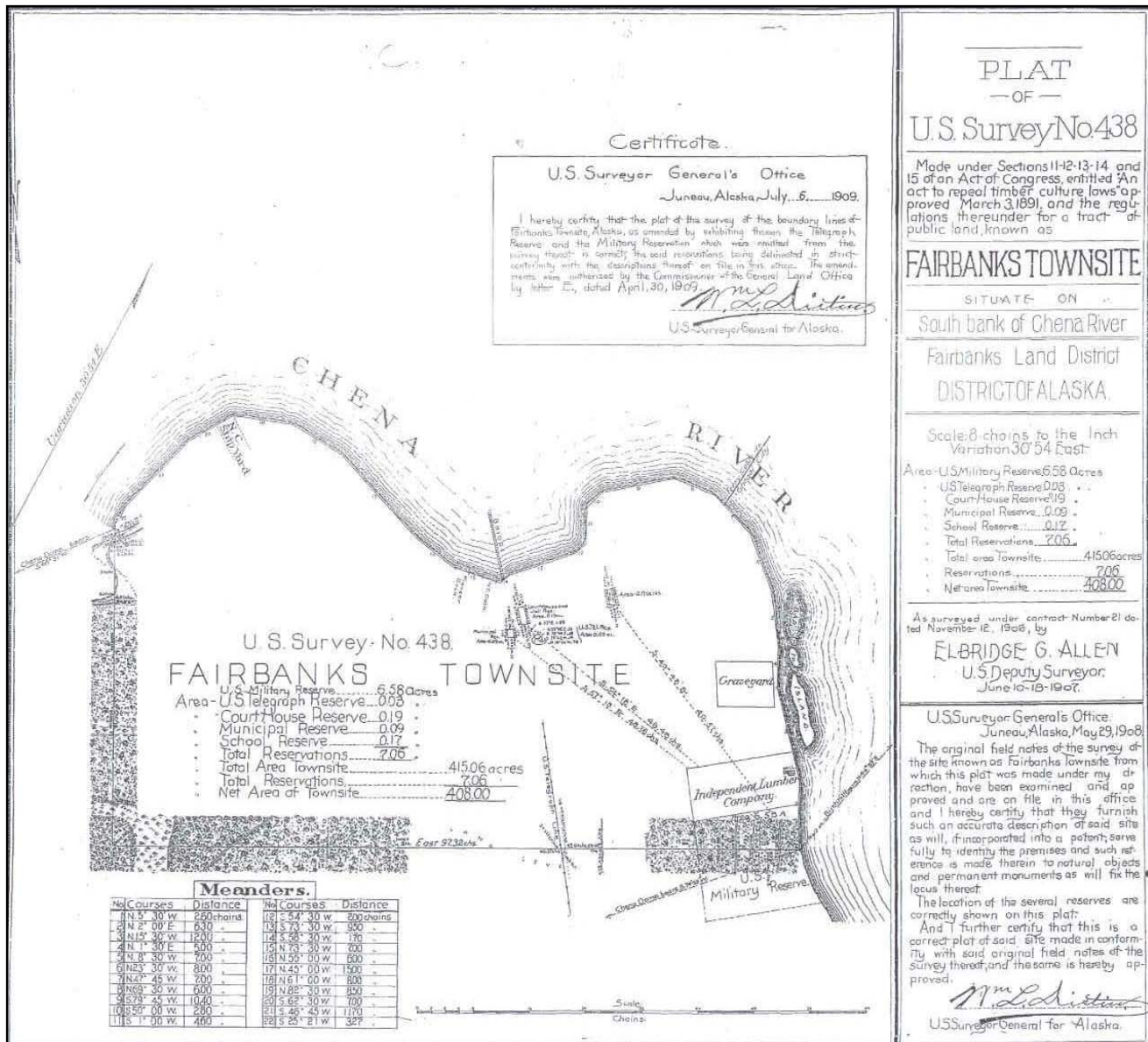
- This modest annexation followed the same standards recently used – for much larger areas -- by the City of Homer and Ketchikan Gateway Borough. Neither was vetoed by

the legislature. Even if legislature wishes to make prospective change, it should not treat this annexation differently than others made under current law.

- Historically, other areas opposed annexation, areas that are now integral parts of the City. The drafters of Alaska's Constitution recognized that requiring voter/owner/borough approval of every effort by a city to annex would lead to weakened cities unable to provide adequate public safety for the community.
- The Fairbanks North Star Borough recently used an analogous statute to expand fire service area boundaries without an election.

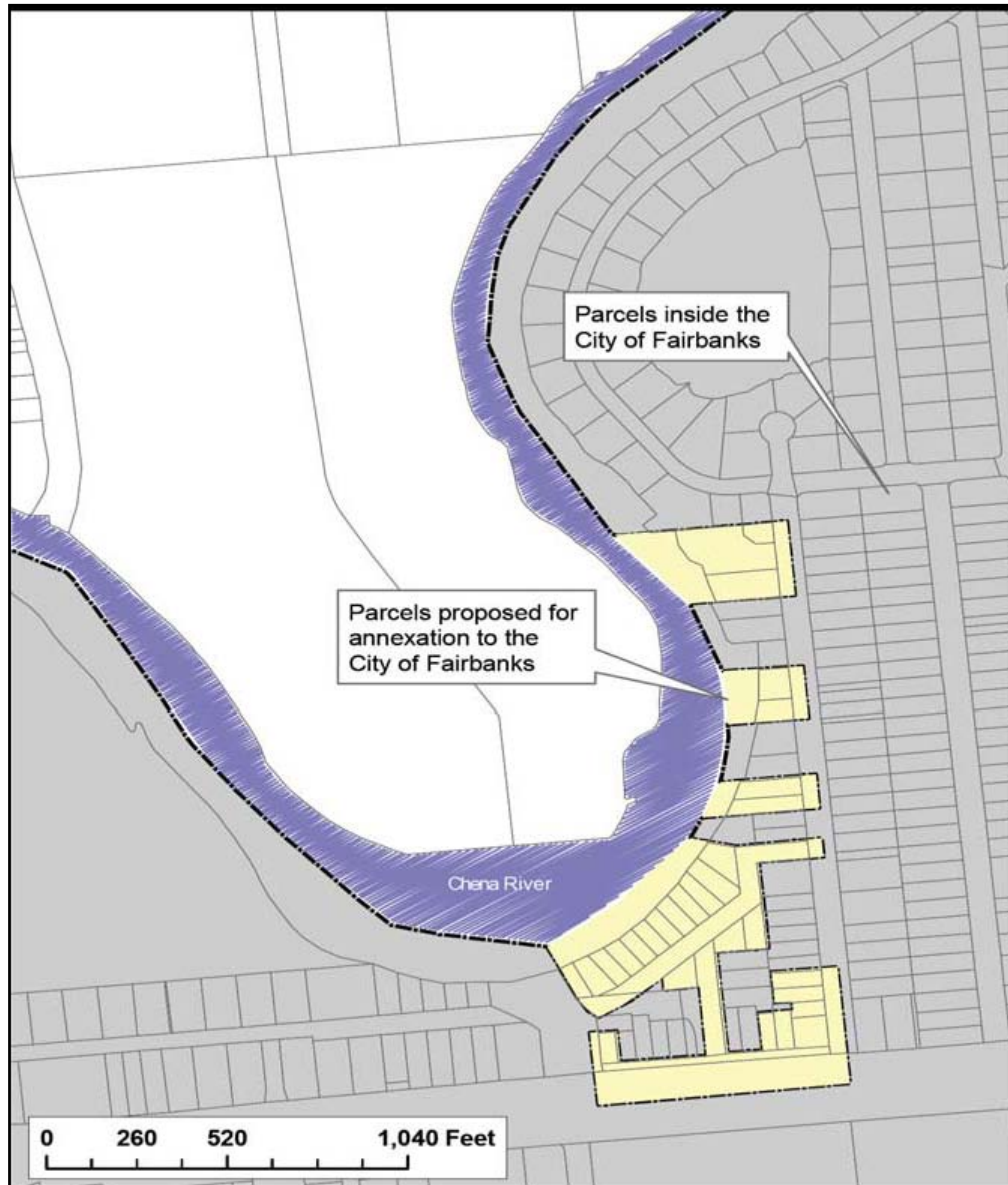
Attachments:

Original City Townsite, circa 1908  
Map of two areas currently proposed for annexation.

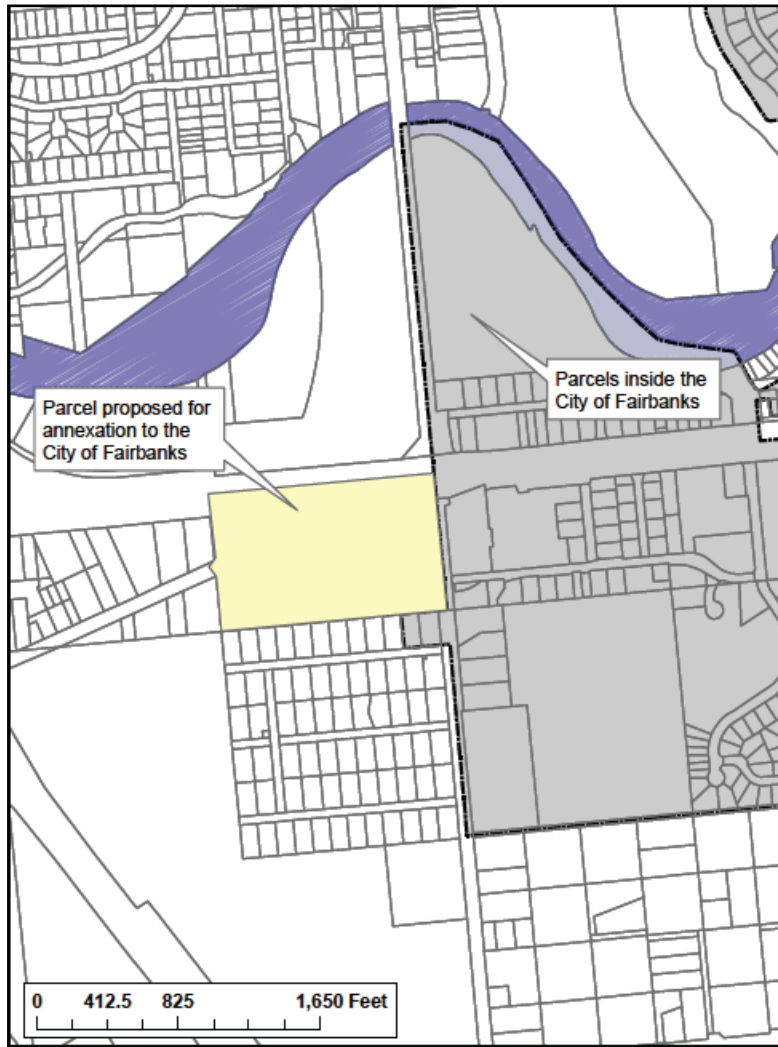


Original City boundaries did not extend north of the Chena. The southern boundary was close to present-day 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.





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