

**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY24-04**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS SUPPORTING HB 279,
AN ACT RELATING TO THE LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Local Boundary Commission (LBC), serves a vital role statewide in evaluating and enabling new cities, boroughs, and boundary adjustments; and,

WHEREAS, the LBC is composed of five members, one from each of the four judicial districts, plus one at-large member serving as chair; and,

WHEREAS, all current members reside in organized boroughs and there is no requirement that any member be appointed from the Unorganized Borough; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution Article 10, Paragraph 3 states: "The entire State shall be divided into boroughs, organized or unorganized"; and,

WHEREAS, six decades after statehood, large areas of the state remain in the Unorganized Borough; and,

WHEREAS, much of Alaska will likely remain outside any organized borough for decades, regardless of whether the State urges regions to organize or not, due to the difficult and lengthy borough formation process; and,

WHEREAS, cities in the Unorganized Borough rely on LBC services for initial formation and boundary adjustments whether or not they intend to form a borough; and,

WHEREAS, many Unorganized Borough residents are served by their local governments in the form of cities without apparent need or wish nor the capacity for an additional layer of regional government; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus, a Second Class City within the Unorganized Borough, benefitted from LBC services at its formation in 2004 and again with the annexation of the Falls Creek Hydroelectric facility lands in 2010; and,

WHEREAS, many unorganized regions would struggle to form a borough which meets the minimum 1000 population standard and the adequate provision of services in a large geographic area; and,

WHEREAS, many regions would struggle to form a borough that is truly in the best interests of the State and can provide regional services effectively and economically over vast areas with disconnected communities having few shared interests; and

WHEREAS, for many Unorganized Borough residents, the best government is at most a city, or perhaps no municipality at all; and,

WHEREAS, residents in the Unorganized Borough have rural lifestyles and at most small-town local government perspectives differing from those in larger municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, requiring that at least one member of the LBC shall be a resident of the Unorganized Borough would help to assure that the perspective of residents of the Unorganized Borough is appreciated on the Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gustavus City Council concludes that the Local Boundary Commission will be serving the needs of the Unorganized Borough for decades to come and therefore encourages passage of HB 279 to assure that the voice of the Unorganized Borough is heard, welcomed, and understood in Commission deliberations.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this 20th day of February 2024, and effective upon adoption.



Shelley K. Owens, Mayor



Attest: Liesl M. Barker, City Clerk

