

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER ADVISORY BOARD RESOLUTION 2020 - 01

Resolution Regarding AO 2020-85, Revisions to Title 23,
Building Codes

September 19, 2020

WHEREAS, the Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board (The Board) is established in Title 21 by Section 21.10.030.B and is constituted in order to review and make recommendations on actions regarding potential changes in land use law that impact multiple Community Council areas in the Chugiak Eagle River area; and

WHEREAS, the Board, with local representation present from Eklutna Valley, South Fork, Chugiak, and Birchwood Community Councils, met on September 19, 2020 to hear local testimony and testimony from Anchorage and Chugiak fire officials and to discuss AO 2020-85 with particular reference to Section 23.45.507.1 Required Water Supply; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be widespread confusion among the general public, the building community, and the members of The Board regarding the effects of the proposed changes on one and two family residential home construction; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage fire officials represented at the meeting that since the 2012 revisions to Title 23, new one and two family homes remote from the municipal water supply system have been required to comply with the Required Water Supply provisions with options limited to: extension of the municipal system, compliance with the requirements of NFPA 1142, or compliance with the International Wildland - Urban Interface Code; and

WHEREAS, the relevant committee has determined that compliance with the existing options is often infeasible and that a fourth option, installation of an approved fire sprinkler system in new one and two family homes should be included in the code; and

WHEREAS, many members of the public and the building community have believed that until now, new one and two family homes have not been required to comply with the water supply requirements of 23.45.507.1, and that the exception for a sprinkler system represents a new requirement; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes that local community councils in the Chugiak - Eagle River region should have a meaningful opportunity to become familiar with and comment on AO 2020-85; and

WHEREAS, The Board is advised that there may be a statutory question of whether three public meetings are required before the Municipality of Anchorage may impose a new requirement for residential fire sprinkler systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board unanimously RESOLVES, that in order to allow for necessary public process, the Anchorage Assembly should take no action on Section 23.45.507.1 of AO 2020-85 until at least October 27, 2020.

Respectfully,

Robert R Reagan, acting for:

Debbie Ossiander, Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board, Co-Chair