
TURNAGAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

c/o Federation of Community Councils
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

September 9, 2015

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
Municipality of Anchorage
632 W 6th Avenue, Suite 840
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
mayor@muni.org

Re: Results of Turnagain and Westside Neighborhood Survey, Summer 2015

Dear Mayor Berkowitz,

Earlier this year, you attended a Federation of Community Councils meeting and asked the councils to share their input on how your administration could make immediate improvements in our neighborhoods, in addition to the several Town Halls your transition team held in the spring.

Turnagain Community Council has long taken an active role in voicing community priorities, from submitting our Capital Improvement Plan priorities list annually to testifying at public hearings about issues important to our members. Because this opportunity for input was shared at the beginning of the summer and not during our regular meeting schedule, the Executive Board decided to take a new approach in gathering ideas to share with your administration—and try to reach out to residents who do not typically engage with TCC. We conducted a neighborhood survey, online and at our September 3 meeting, and reached out to residents in Turnagain, Spenard, North Star and surrounding areas. Our goals were to gather ideas from residents about what *they* would address immediately, and invite them to be members of a community council.

Please find attached a summary of our neighborhood survey results, as well as a copy of the original survey questions for reference. We were pleased to receive 55 responses, several of whom were unaware of or not currently engaged with the community council system. When we reviewed the responses, we found clear common themes among the answers, as well as some very specific “problem areas” needing attention, according to respondents. The results are summarized by theme, with a list of suggestions and locations of concern indicated on a map. We are also happy to provide the full individual responses if you would like to read further. We present this summary with the caveat that none of the individuals’ views represent those of TCC members as a whole, and these suggestions have not been endorsed as TCC recommendations. The summary is simply the results of our neighborhood outreach effort this summer, to better understand residents’ concerns and encourage them to participate in our community council system.

Turnagain Community Council thanks you for reaching out to the councils in your first months as mayor! We welcomed one of your representatives, Sharon Lane, at our September meeting, and look forward to working with your administration and the other community councils to promote strong, engaged neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Danielle Bailey, President

CC:

Municipality of Anchorage, Amy Coffman, Community Councils Liaison, coffmanaj@ci.anchorage.ak.us
North Star Community Council, c/o Sam A. Moore, President, saverymoore@gmail.com
Spenard Community Council, c/o Phil Isley, President, spenardcc@gmail.com
Federation of Community Councils, c/o Mark Butler, Manager, info@communitycouncils.org
