

Presented 1/12/98

WASILLA CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

IM No. 98-04

SUBJECT: Support Letter for Annexation to the City of Wailla

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: January 6, 1998

FOR AGENDA OF: January 12, 1998

SUMMARY:

Council:

Property owners along Wasilla Lake are responding to an inquiry re: The existing level of support for their area someday becoming part of our city limits.

The response seems to be a confirmation of this administration's (and this council's) "No Forced Annexation" policy. Those opposing the idea have an understandable lack of enthusiasm for another level of government over them. They realize we can not guarantee utility expansions into the area anytime soon; and, it can probably best be summarized in the wise words of one property owner, "Don't call us, we'll call you!"

FISCAL IMPACT: No Yes, amount requested: \$ Fund:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:



Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Attachments:

December 16, 1997

RE: Annexation of Wasilla Lake Area Property

Dear «LastName» :

I have recently heard from numerous individuals who live on or near Wasilla Lake who are interested in becoming part of the city limits of Wasilla. I strongly oppose any effort towards the "forced annexation practice" that was accepted in the not too distant past in Wasilla and I have, and will, only support pursuing the idea of considering annexation if you desire an "*annexation by invitation*" approach. That is, if you invite yourself to be part of Wasilla's city limits.

The City of Wasilla is interested in determining what percentage of property owners in the Wasilla Lake area desire the consideration of inclusion in our city limits. I would like to share with you some of the benefits of being a city resident:

- Mil rate is currently **.86 mils less** than your current Bogard Road Service Area/Non-Areawide rate. This is equal to .86 cents per \$1000 of assessed valuation. For property valued at \$200,000 this would amount to a relative savings of \$172 per year. Wasilla's new administration and City Council have historically supported a fiscally conservative agenda. It is my intent to continue to support reducing our property taxes as much as possible.
- **Police Protection** - The City of Wasilla has a police department with 16 employees and five reserve officers. This department provides routine patrols in the community, investigation, enforcement of traffic laws, implements a Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (DARE) program and a rapid response capability that cannot be matched by the Alaska State Troopers, due to the relative size of the Trooper's jurisdiction outside the City and the low trooper-to-area ratio.

- **Water and Sewer Availability** - If you were to annex into the city you have the potential of having city water and sewer. For commercial developments with a fire sprinkler system this is a real cost incentive because you may not need a water holding tank or a fire pump. Safe, clean, healthy, drinking water could be made available to you.
- **Local Improvement Districts (LIDs)** - The City of Wasilla pays two-thirds match to property owners in road paving local improvement districts. Inclusion in our city provides the opportunity for you to have your local roads paved.
- **Road Maintenance** - The city maintains most roads within the city limits. Selected heavily traveled gravel roads are coated with calcium chloride to help control dust. The city administration is currently implementing many road improvement policies to better the transportation system for residents.
- **Planning and Zoning Controls** - The Wasilla Planning Office is staffed with professionals to coordinate city planning efforts, to administer the Wasilla Development Code and to work with the public to ensure compliance with applicable land use codes.
- **Protection of Wasilla Lake** - Becoming part of the City of Wasilla would be instrumental in the protection of the lake. The potential exists for lake properties to be included in the city's sewer system.
- **Right to Vote in City Elections** - City elections affect residents who live in and out of the city limits. Should you live in the city limits your vote would count towards decisions that affect you. Should you ever desire to serve the public you would have the opportunity to serve as an elected or appointed government official. We currently have two commissions: the Planning Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Residents are appointed to serve on both of these important volunteer commissions.

The City would appreciate the opportunity to discuss your interest in becoming part of Wasilla's city limits. Your input on this issue is needed before I even begin to pursue this, so please let me know if you are interested.

Enclosed is a self-addressed stamped postcard for sharing your thoughts. I look forward to hearing from you. Please remember, I am adamantly opposed to forced annexation and will not pursue the issue if the majority of property owners oppose this idea.

Sincerely,

Sarah Palin, Mayor
City of Wasilla