

Introduced by: Council Member Robb  
Date: March 12, 2013  
Action: Passed  
Vote: 4-1

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **Resolution # 13-05**

#### **A RESOLUTION BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING THE BETHEL AIRPORT MASTER PLAN UPDATE AS CURRENTLY PRESENTED WITH A WESTWARD EXPANSION OF THE CROSSWIND RUNWAY EXTENSION**

- WHEREAS**, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is working on the Bethel Airport Master Plan Update which will provide guidelines for the Bethel Airport's development over the next 20 years;
- WHEREAS**, one option for expansion provided by DOT and DOWL HKM, the engineering firm assigned to the project, will expand the crosswind runway extension to the west which would require relocation of the existing Tower Road;
- WHEREAS**, with the plan currently under the "Recommendations" stages of the planning process, the Bethel City Council strongly encourages DOT to reconsider the suggested expansion westward and consider one of the three other options for an eastward expansion;
- WHEREAS**, if the westward expansion were to occur, as currently proposed, the Tower Road relocation would cut through the Alaska Territorial Memorial Park and Bethel's only rifle range as well as back up to the City's Memorial Cemetery;
- WHEREAS**, the Alaska Territorial Memorial Park honors those veterans, often neglected by history, who volunteered to keep Alaska safe during World War II;
- WHEREAS**, the Alaska Territorial Memorial Park was conceived and developed by concerned citizen volunteers in cooperation with the City of Bethel, the Alaska National Guard, and the community at large;
- WHEREAS**, the Alaska Territorial Memorial Park, still under development, is the culmination of numerous hours of volunteer work by citizens of Bethel, many of them veterans;
- WHEREAS**, the Alaska Territorial Memorial Park has been supported by communities, tribes, and individuals from around the State;

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**WHEREAS**, Bethel has not had a shooting range for over 20 years;

**WHEREAS**, the shooting range just recently opened and still under development, has been the work of volunteers from the community, the city, and the Bethel Sportsman's Club;

**WHEREAS**, the shooting range will have long term benefits for the people of Bethel and the region, these benefits include general firearms safety, a place for training for law enforcement, a training ground for subsistence hunting, youth, and the community;

**WHEREAS**, the Bethel Friends of the NRA Committee has hosted 12 annual fundraising dinners in Bethel; most were sold out, and the community has donated over \$250,000 over this time the NRA Foundation;

**WHEREAS**, the community of Bethel has demonstrated tremendous support for the Alaska Territorial Guard Memorial Park and the Shooting Range;

**WHEREAS**, there are other viable options for expansion of the Bethel Airport to the east;

**WHEREAS**, with the impacts to religious and historical sites as well as a site established for life safety, the Bethel City Council cannot support the westward expansion as proposed, and encourages DOT to reconsider the impact to not only the community, but the region if a westward expansion is further considered;

**WHEREAS**, the most distant subdivision in Bethel is Kasayuli, currently requiring \$10.00 cab fair, which is already inordinately expensive for residents of Bethel who reside there, and westward expansion of the airport would require an additional half mile of travel"

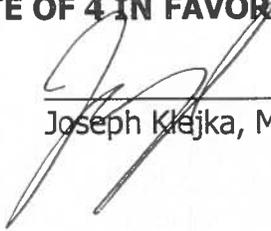
**WHEREAS**, Westward expansion will interfere with the use of the City sand pit, inhibiting needed services of future development;

**Whereas;** the Memorial Cemetery, Alaska Territorial Guard Park, rifle range and City sand pit are on City property.

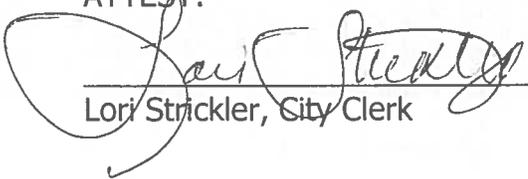
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bethel City Council opposes the suggested expansion of the Bethel Airport to the west and encourages the Department of Transportation to focus on the three eastward expansion options.

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**ENACTED THIS 12 DAY OF MARCH 2013 BY A VOTE OF 4 IN FAVOR AND 1  
OPPOSED.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Strickler, City Clerk