

RESOLUTION NO. 5221

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION'S (DEC) PROPOSAL TO DIVIDE THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PM2.5 NONATTAINMENT AREA INTO TWO ZONES: FAIRBANKS–GOLDSTREAM VALLEY AND NORTH POLE

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has proposed to divide the existing Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) 24-hour PM2.5 nonattainment area into two distinct Air Quality Control Zones (AQCZs): the Fairbanks–Goldstream Valley AQCZ, encompassing the City of Fairbanks, Goldstream Valley, and surrounding communities currently meeting attainment standards, and the North Pole AQCZ, encompassing the City of North Pole and adjacent neighborhoods where winter PM2.5 levels continue to exceed federal standards (see Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, DEC's proposal supersedes the agency's prior November 20, 2015 request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which DEC asked EPA to hold in abeyance on June 1, 2018; and

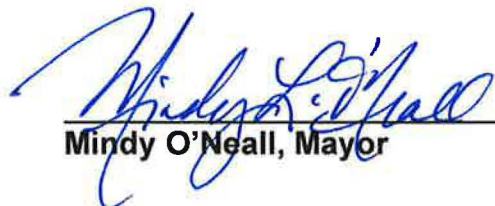
WHEREAS, DEC has clarified that no final decision has been made and that public comment is expected in the summer of 2026, with specific dates yet to be determined; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks and North Pole areas are currently regulated under the same air quality control measures despite experiencing substantially different pollution patterns and severity, and separating the areas would allow each community to pursue solutions tailored to its actual air quality challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Fairbanks expresses its support for the State of Alaska DEC's proposal to divide the FNSB PM2.5 nonattainment area into the Fairbanks–Goldstream Valley and North Pole Air Quality Control Zones.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Alaska DEC Commissioner Randy Bates, Division of Air Quality Director Jason Olds, Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Mayor Grier Hopkins, City of North Pole Mayor Larry Terch, and the FAST Planning Policy Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the effective date of this resolution is six days after adoption.


Mindy O'Neill, Mayor

AYES: APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
APPROVED: July 13, 2026

ATTEST:



D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Thomas A. Chard II, City Attorney



Illustration taken from the Department of Environmental Conservation website at <https://dec.alaska.gov/air/anpms/communities/fbks-pm2-5-nonattainment-area-split-faq/>.