

MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

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TO: Wade Bryson, Chair of the Assembly LHED Committee
FROM: Dan Bleidorn, Lands and Resources Manager *Daniel Bleidorn*
SUBJECT: BLM Request for Information on Mayflower Island
DATE: April 23, 2025

For a number of years, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Douglas Indian Association (DIA) and the CBJ have been communicating on the process by which the BLM can dispose of the property known as Mayflower Island to the DIA. BLM has the authority to transfer ownership of the Island to the CBJ but not DIA. In part because of this, the Assembly has not taken any action on acquiring this property in order to give DIA and BLM an opportunity to facilitate the transfer of ownership to DIA. BLM informed the CBJ that if the CBJ does not accept this property as a donation then BLM will sell the property through a BLM competitive disposal process. **The 2025 Assembly Goals for Community, Wellness, and Public Safety, includes Goal E "Support Douglas Indian Association's efforts to acquire Mayflower Island"**. The attached letter from the BLM provides an opportunity for the Assembly to provide direction on achieving this 2025 Assembly Goal.

One option to achieve the 2025 Assembly goal would be for the CBJ to acquire this property from BLM and then transfer ownership to DIA. The acquisition of property by the CBJ as a grant of gift requires that the Assembly adopt a resolution accepting the property, "real property to be acquired as a grant or as a part of a program of grants or which is offered to the City and Borough as a gift, or at less than fair market value and which is not required for an approved project, may be accepted only upon the approval of the assembly by resolution." BLM expects the process to take around two years from the time that the Assembly adopts this resolution. During the time when BLM is working through their disposal review process, the Assembly could work to authorize the disposal to DIA.

The process for disposing of CBJ property, for less than fair market value, to the DIA would require the Assembly to adopt an ordinance authorizing the disposal. The Island has a communications tower which is of interest to the CBJ to bolster communications and public safety networks. If the CBJ facilitates the transfer from BLM to DIA through an acquisition and disposal, it is recommended that the CBJ retain ownership of the communications tower by recording an easement prior to transfer of ownership to DIA.

Staff request that the LHED Committee direct the CBJ attorney to draft a resolution accepting this property from BLM with the intention of disposing of it to DIA and forward it to the full Assembly for public hearing