

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2, 2025
TO: Wade Bryson
Assembly
FROM: Emily Wright, City Attorney
SUBJECT: Privatizing Eaglecrest Operations



LAW DEPARTMENT
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The question you have asked is whether CBJ Charter and Code allow for the operations elements of Eaglecrest to be privatized through a contractual agreement with an outside agency.

Neither CBJ Charter nor CBJ Code prevents the privatization of operational functions at Eaglecrest.

Any change to the operations of Eaglecrest, must be reviewed and approved by the Eaglecrest Board. The governance structure of Eaglecrest was created in Charter by voters in 1981 (Charter Article 3.20).¹ Code Chapter 67.05 Eaglecrest Ski Area was passed in response. Chapter 67.05.020(a) establishes that “the board of directors of the Eaglecrest ski area shall be responsible for the operation of the ski area according to the best interests of the public, shall make and enforce all rules and regulations necessary for the administration of the ski area under their management, shall prescribe the terms under which persons and groups may use the ski area, and shall establish and enforce standards of operation.”

In 1987, Eaglecrest operations were financially segregated with a special revenue fund.² The Eaglecrest Foundation, a 501(c)(3), a “nonprofit corporation established in 2008 to solicit, manage and invest donations for the exclusive benefit of Eaglecrest Ski Area, a nonprofit entity of the City and Borough of Juneau” also provides support to the ski area.

The Assembly at various times has discussed the privatization of Eaglecrest, this includes:

- In 1986, CBJ issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a private concessionaire to operate the ski area. It appears that no responsive bids were received.³
- In 1999 Mayors Fiscal Task Force considered privatization, no action was taken.⁴
- The 2012 Strategic Plan recommends pursuing relationships with the private sector for summer use.⁵
- The 2019 Summer Development Plan references the possible use of public-private partnerships, 100% private financing, or 100% public financing.⁶

Other considerations: While Eaglecrest employees are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, some employees are PERS eligible. Care will need to be taken to identify these employees and assess any PERS liability.

¹ See ballot and ordinance.

² Eaglecrest Ski Area Summer Development Plan (2019), page 8.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Eaglecrest Ski Area Master Plan (2012), page 105

⁶ Eaglecrest Ski Area Summer Development Plan (2019), page 51.