

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 3055

A Resolution Partially Opposing the Petition Submitted by the City of Hoonah for Incorporation of the Xunaa Borough Including Horse Island, Colt Island, and the Mansfield Peninsula on Admiralty Island.

WHEREAS, Horse and Colt Islands are only ~7 boat miles from the major boat access points in the CBJ (Statter Harbor/North Douglas Boat Ramp) as compared to ~53 boat miles to Hoonah; Horse Island had ~75 private lots according to Plat 86-57 (1986) and Colt Island had ~113 private lots according to Plat 75-11 (1975); and

WHEREAS, the eastern side of the Mansfield Peninsula—including the Point Retreat Lighthouse—is only ~6-11 boat miles from the major boat access points in the CBJ as compared to ~40-56 boat miles to Hoonah; and

WHEREAS, the western side of the Mansfield Peninsula, especially Funter Bay, is about equal distance (~25 boat miles) from the major boat access points in the CBJ and to Hoonah; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Sec. 3 of the Alaska Constitution requires boroughs that encompass areas and populations with common interests to the maximum degree possible; and

WHEREAS, the Local Boundary Commission conducted an intensive study, which included public testimony from throughout Alaska, in order to adopt "model borough boundaries" that should guide the Local Boundary Commission's analysis; and

WHEREAS, charged in 2005 to research and advise the Assembly on annexation topics, the [CBJ Annexation Study Commission produced a final report](#) in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 CBJ Annexation Study Commission report, described the model borough boundaries for the CBJ and accurately reflected an area more closely tied to the CBJ than any other potential municipality—including a potential Xunaa Borough—because of the CBJ's "role as a transportation, supply, services, and communication hub for property owners at Funter Bay and on Horse and Colt Islands..." ([2007 Report page 4](#)); and

WHEREAS, the 2007 CBJ Annexation Study Commission report also researched the common interests (social, cultural, economic, communication, and transportation) for the northern area of Admiralty Island and described that "Many CBJ residents also own

property outside but need the current CBJ boundaries, including in Funter Bay and on Horse and Colt Islands, and other dispersed locations on Admiralty Island...Juneau serves as the supply, transportation, and services center for all of these outlying areas” and public radio stations reach some of the areas ([2007 Report page 4](#)); and

WHEREAS, the 2007 CBJ Annexation Study Commission report also described there is dispersed economic activity around the northern area of Admiralty Island by identifying a tourist lodge that operates seasonally on Colt Island, a mining company had expressed interest exploring old prospects on the Mansfield Peninsula, and only 14 people received Permanent Fund Dividend distributions in this area as of 2005 (Funter Bay-6, Colt Island-4, Horse Island-3, Hawk Inlet-1) ([2007 Report pages 5-6](#)); and

WHEREAS, the 2007 CBJ Annexation Study Commission report concluded the CBJ should not annex the area south of Greens Creek on Admiralty Island without initiating discussions with the City of Angoon community leaders (page 10), but the CBJ should defend the model borough boundaries if an annexation petition was submitted, especially by a community that did not include the City of Angoon ([2007 Report pages 11-12](#)); and

WHEREAS, on November 27, 2023, the Local Boundary Commission accepted an annexation petition submitted by the City of Hoonah for Incorporation of the Xunaa Borough and Dissolution of the City of Hoonah, that includes the northern tip of Admiralty Island (including Colt and Horse Islands), which is inside the model borough boundary for the CBJ and does not include the City of Angoon; and

WHEREAS, Horse Island, Colt Island, and the northern tip of Admiralty Island are still within the model borough boundary for the CBJ, and still have stronger connections with the CBJ than any other potential borough; and

WHEREAS, about five years ago, there were five permanent residences on Horse and Colt Islands, who came to the CBJ for mail and services (Exhibit E at n. 4-5, <https://juneau.org/manager/2019-annexation-petition?pagenum=1>); and

WHEREAS, about five years ago, the remaining private parcels are either undeveloped or have recreational cabins with the vast majority residing in the CBJ, are registered to vote in the CBJ, and have already been included in CBJ’s population count. Of the registered Alaska voters who own property, none were registered to vote or reside in Hoonah (Exhibit E at page 7, <https://juneau.org/manager/2019-annexation-petition?pagenum=1>); and

WHEREAS, about five years ago, the two non-profit entities that owned property on the eastern side of the Mansfield Peninsula had addresses in the CBJ (Exhibit E at page 8, <https://juneau.org/manager/2019-annexation-petition?pagenum=1>); and

WHEREAS, about five years ago, there was a tourism-based business (Orca Point Lodge) on Colt Island in which the tours all left from the CBJ (i.e. Statter Harbor), another nearby property is owned by a business that shuttles Green’s Creek mine workers within the CBJ, and Sealaska—headquartered in the CBJ—owns a small parcel on the Mansfield Peninsula

(Exhibit E at pages 9-10, <https://juneau.org/manager/2019-annexation-petition?pagenum=1>); and

WHEREAS, about five years ago, the USFS permitted commercial activity—freshwater fishing, hunting, nature tours—in GUA 04-10 (including southwestern Mansfield Peninsula) and GUA 04-08 (including northern Mansfield Peninsula) with more companies that had connections to the CBJ than any other area (Exhibit R, <https://juneau.org/manager/2019-annexation-petition?pagenum=2>); and

WHEREAS, about five years ago, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported that 79% of the Alaska resident brown bear hunters, 95% of Alaska resident Sitka black-tailed deer hunters, and the majority of Alaska big game guides who hunted on northern Admiralty Island were based out of the CBJ (Exhibit E at page 11, <https://juneau.org/manager/2019-annexation-petition?pagenum=1>); and

WHEREAS, about five years ago, radio communication, public radio stations, cell phone towers, and charter services from the CBJ provided the requisite level of communications to Horse and Colt Islands and Mansfield Peninsula (Exhibit E at pages 19-21, <https://juneau.org/manager/2019-annexation-petition?pagenum=1>); and

WHEREAS, there have been substantial public meetings discussing annexation of the Mansfield Peninsula, Horse Island, and Colt Island including during the 2018-19 annexation process (Exhibits H1-H8), and more recently on January 29 and February 5, 2024, which included a public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. CBJ Partial Opposition to the Xunaa Borough Petition. The City and Borough of Juneau believes the Xunaa Borough would benefit the region, but the CBJ opposes the incorporation/annexation of Horse Island, Colt Island, and the Mansfield Peninsula according to Attachment A into the proposed Xunaa Borough for the reasons described above and encourages the Local Boundary Commission to use the 1997 model borough boundary for that area instead.

Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2024.

Attest:

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk