

Mayor's Report

April 20, 2026 Assembly Meeting

1. **National Safe Boating Week Proclamation:** The Borough Assembly received a request from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 17-01-04, to issue a proclamation recognizing National Safe Boating Week, May 16 through 22, 2026. The request underscores the importance of boating safety in Petersburg's maritime community and notes that most recreational boating accidents result from human error, including alcohol use, operator inattention, and lack of education.

The attached proclamation promotes life jacket use, boating education, adherence to navigation rules, and engine cut-off switches to reduce accidents and save lives. Thank you to Jim Floyd, the Flotilla Commander for Petersburg, for bringing this proclamation forward. The proclamation is attached to this agenda item.

2. **Legislative Visit to Juneau:** During the week of March 16th, I traveled to Juneau to meet with all Southeast legislators as well as the head of the Southeast Region Department of Transportation. These meetings provided an important opportunity to advocate for a wide range of Petersburg Borough priorities, including housing needs and barriers to development, school deferred maintenance, the South Mitkof subdivision, rural health transformation funding, delays in senior benefits, harbor maintenance funding, sea otter management, and restoration of the \$2 million appropriation for the Tyee third turbine. I also raised the issue of completing remaining land transfers under the municipal entitlement program.

While in Juneau, I also held conference calls with the Director of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) to discuss potential grants and loan programs that could support local housing infrastructure. I received useful guidance and several actionable suggestions that will require continued work and follow-up in the coming weeks.

3. **Budget Work Session:** I would like to remind the Assembly and the public that a Budget Work Session has been scheduled for April 29th at noon. The purpose of this work session is for the Assembly to review and discuss the proposed FY2027 budget with borough staff. Although a quorum of the Assembly will be present, no formal action will be taken.

4. **Planning Commission Vacancy:** The Borough is accepting letters of interest from qualified citizens to serve on the Planning Commission through the October 2026 municipal election. Applicants must be registered Borough voters and residents for at least one year. Letters may be submitted to the Clerk's Office in person, by mail, or by email at bregula@petersburgak.gov. For more information, contact the Borough Clerk at (907) 772-5405.