

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION #2025-18**

**A RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE MANAGEMENT OF NUISANCE BLACK BEARS  
IN THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH**

**WHEREAS** the Petersburg Borough has experienced an ongoing issue with black bears entering residential and municipal areas, causing significant damage to Borough-owned refuse containers in pursuit of garbage; and

**WHEREAS** the Petersburg community has made a strong and commendable effort to comply with Borough ordinances requiring secured garbage storage, and the Petersburg Police Department has not issued recent citations because residents have consistently taken responsible steps to secure their cans; and

**WHEREAS** despite these efforts, approximately four individual black bears have demonstrated the ability to overcome Borough-provided bear straps by forcefully destroying the lids of garbage cans and bypassing ratchet straps and other commonly used securing methods; and

**WHEREAS** these bears exhibit a clear pattern of habituated behavior likely stemming from generational learning, making them unusually persistent and emboldened in their pursuit of human refuse, which in turn poses a threat to public safety and Borough infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** the continued destruction of Borough garbage cans is placing an unsustainable financial burden on the community through increased man-hours, repair and replacement costs, and sanitation disruptions; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers identify garbage as the primary attractant in bear-human conflicts and support the removal of nuisance bears when necessary to protect property and public safety

[adfg.alaska.gov](<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearharmony>), [5 AAC 92.410] ([Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 92, Article 9 - Emergency Taking | Alaska Administrative Code](#)) and

**WHEREAS** ADF&G guidance and wildlife regulations permit the dispatch of wildlife that poses a threat to life or property, so long as appropriate reporting, coordination, and procedures are followed by local authorities;

**NOW, THEREFORE** be it resolved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly and the Mayor that:

1. The Borough formally acknowledges that the current group of approximately four black bears has become classified as nuisance wildlife due to ongoing and

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repeated incidents of property damage and persistent, learned behavior in accessing garbage despite the community's good-faith compliance with sanitation ordinances.

2. The Borough authorizes the Petersburg Police Department, in coordination with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, to dispatch and remove these specific nuisance bears in accordance with all applicable laws and wildlife reporting procedures under 5 AAC 92.410.

3. The Borough acknowledges that this action may generate concern from some members of the public and will require careful cooperation with state agencies. However, given the clear and ongoing threat to Borough property and public safety, this response is both necessary and responsible.

4. Following the removal of these specific bears, the Borough will continue to promote bear-safe practices, improve long-term waste management strategies, and work with ADF&G to minimize the potential for future conflicts.

5. The Borough will redirect cost savings from reduced garbage can repairs and sanitation response efforts toward public education and mitigation strategies that support community safety and wildlife coexistence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief of Police, Chief Kerr, is hereby authorized and directed to coordinate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to facilitate the removal and documentation of these nuisance animals.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Petersburg Borough Assembly this 4th day of August 2025.

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**Donna Marsh, Vice Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Rebecca Regula, Borough Clerk**