

# **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**

## **CHUGIAK EAGLE RIVER ADVISORY BOARD**

### **RESOLUTION 2025-1**

#### **Jurisdictional clarity for the Chin'an Gaming Hall**

WHEREAS, it has been difficult for citizens to get information about plans, potential impacts and jurisdictional authority for the Chin'an Gaming Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Gaming Hall claims exemption from all state and local regulatory law, including the payment of local taxes. Questions surround the potential impact of this on other tax payers, as well as police, fire, emergency, traffic and public health services; and

WHEREAS, their Environment Assessment states intent to follow some laws but does not specify which ones and if enforcement will be permitted; there is no enforcement entity identified anywhere in the Assessment findings; and

WHEREAS, the potential impact of regulatory exemption and lack of enforcement has engendered fears that this large commercial business, with up to 400 employees, may cause environmental contamination, lacks oversight for potential negative alcohol, marijuana and gambling impacts, and increases dangerous traffic conditions by adding 8-10,000 vehicle daily trips to a rural road; and

WHEREAS, local residents have received no response from code enforcement over noise, dust and traffic complaints; and

WHEREAS, the potential impact of the lack of state jurisdiction over 17,000 other native allotments within Alaska calls into question many environmental enforcement issues; and

WHEREAS, local residents and the State of Alaska have challenged the legality of the Gaming Hall approval and the US Department of the Interior is now reviewing some of their recent decisions, including the one authorizing the Gaming Hall on the Ondola native allotment in Birchwood; and

WHEREAS, the Chin'an Gaming Hall has recently expanded their operating hours and is actively constructing a new 58,000 sq foot building on site; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board believes we need clear jurisdictional authority and clear information for issues arising from the Chin'an Gaming Hall. The Board asks the Municipality and the State of Alaska to provide clarity in determining governance and enforcement responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Board asks Marnell Gaming and Eklutna Village for a pause in the continued Gaming Hall construction until final decisions on these questions are made.

Sean Murphy

Chair, Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board

Passed and approved on March 22, 2025. Meeting attended by representatives from SouthFork, Eagle River Valley, Eagle River, Eklutna Valley, Birchwood and Chugiak Community Councils.