

March 1, 2024

City & Borough of Juneau Assembly  
155 Heritage Way  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Assembly Members,

The Pioneers of Alaska Juneau Igloo No. 6 is writing you today in regards to your decision on February 12<sup>th</sup> to move forward with demolishing the existing properties on Telephone Hill and implement a complete redevelopment. Please consider this letter a formal request on behalf of our membership to reconsider this decision and consider an option in which the most historical properties are preserved.

Igloo No. 6 was formed over a hundred-years-ago to preserve the history of Juneau's pioneers and to promote the best interests of our beloved state. The proud names of our 359 Charter members are found throughout the City and Borough of Juneau, noting their economic and demographic diversity - from Behrends, "China Joe" Ching Choy, and Kashevaroff to MacKinnon, Sokoloff and Valentine. The ideology that brought this multifarious group of Pioneers together forms not just the bedrock of Juneau, but Alaska itself. More than half of the members of the Territorial Legislature were members, as were the Representatives, Senators, Governors, Mayors, and Assembly Members of Juneau and Douglas for decades, and one sitting United States President.

Telephone Hill represents the greatest efforts of CBJ's founding fathers. One has only to look at the history of those who lived there to be inspired - from William Harris publishing his political cartoons nationally as an early advocate of Alaska Native rights against the colonialism of the U.S. Government in 1903 to Anna Webster being the first woman in the world to run a telephone company, beginning her career as head of the Douglas Telephone Exchange in 1905.

It is understood that this decision was based on the need for housing to be more important than the historical value of the properties on Telephone Hill. The CBJ's Comprehensive Plan Ordinance 2013-26 states on page 221, "The general character of the community as a whole is enhanced by the very existence of these historic neighborhoods...Owners of historic buildings should be educated, encouraged, and assisted in the preservation of these important features of the community. In addition, the CBJ government should be a role model to the local community by appropriately preserving and maintaining public historic buildings and facilities with care." While addition housing development is important for the community we do not feel that is more important than the historical preservation, at some level, of Telephone Hill.

We stand on the shoulders of the shining visionaries of Telephone Hill, where each house has an incredible story to tell and it is ultimately up to you, the Assembly, to be the role model for the community by preserving as much as you can of the great history of Telephone Hill.

We appreciate your consideration on this matter.

Bradley S. Austin  
President  
Pioneers of Alaska Igloo No. 6