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www.Girdwood.US

Statement by Girdwood Governance Association

Girdwood Governance Association (GGA), as any other association signifies, contains members which have come together and formed “an organization of persons having a common interest.” This common interest is self-governance for Girdwood.

GGA has been correctly identified as a group of interested citizens and residents of Girdwood. We have been operating as an unincorporated civic group. As of November 28, 2018, GGA was incorporated as an Alaska Non-Profit. GGA is an example of democracy in its most raw and basic form, people coming together on a collective issue. We are not advocating for a certain path for Girdwood or any other community at this point, but are gathering data to make informed decisions and educate our community with our findings.

Our mission statement reads, “The goal of Girdwood Governance Association (GGA) is to explore, identify, and if feasible, advance a viable plan to maximize self-governance for the Girdwood community.” GGA, Inc is a privately funded organization. To date, no member of our board has been compensated for their time, energy or expertise regarding this cause. GGA has only been made possible by many hours of volunteerism, in addition to donations from individuals, community groups and businesses within Girdwood. We are humbled that well respected non-profits including Girdwood Inc and Girdwood 2020 have financially contributed toward the studies we are undertaking.

Girdwood Governance Association (GGA) is participating with the City of Cordova and City of Whittier in an economic feasibility study regarding a possible Prince William Sound Borough. No formal action has been taken for the formation of a Prince William Sound Borough or a City of Girdwood. The City of Cordova, the City of Whittier and Girdwood Governance Association (GGA) are still in a research phase of the process.

It is the opinion of GGA that communities that have maximum autonomy best serve its residents. If any LBC process were to go forward, the desire is any governmental structure created would include maximum autonomy for the communities within. We seek to sit down as equals and recognize any community board as a valid participant in this discussion. Any potential borough could be specifically structured with very few powers and recognize an inherent sovereignty of native communities within our region.

We will be receiving the results of the first part of our economic study soon and will have more information to share as our partners publish into the public space. We plan to simultaneously publish the data when they do.

We invited communities, stakeholders and cities to the meeting we held in June 2018. Hardly anything was decided that day, but one thing that was collectively understood and agreed upon by each member present was the importance of self-determination.

– **Girdwood Governance Association**