

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2008-019

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SITE SELECTION FOR THE ANCHORAGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT OUTDOOR TRAINING RANGE FACILITY.

(Case 2008-048)

WHEREAS, a request has been received from the Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Police Department, for a public facility site selection for the Anchorage Police Department Outdoor Training Range Facility per AMC 21.15.015; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on March 3, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission that:

- A. The Commission makes the following findings of fact:
1. The Anchorage Police Department (APD) is seeking a site for an Outdoor Training Range Complex (OTRC), known as the Arctic Public Safety Training Institute (Arctic PSTI). Currently, there is no dedicated area for South Central Alaska law enforcement personnel to train regularly in real climate conditions. Instead, law enforcement personnel train at the Birchwood Range, which is a civilian shooting range, and at Fort Richardson Army Base at the discretion of the military. Both of the current sites used do not allow for the necessary defensive and tactical training necessary as they are used for other purposes and use scheduling is not at the discretion of APD. These sites also do not allow for a consolidated training area for fire/EMS, emergency vehicle operator course, and collocated dedicated outdoor firing range.
 2. The new OTRC will require an approximate 40 acres in area, located within the MOA police service area. The project will be developed in two phases. Phase one will include one 14 point/300 yard shooting range, a training shoot house, two 50 yard tactical shooting ranges, and a parking lot. The second phase will include classrooms and office space, and one 14 point/150 yard tactical range. Concept site plans are provided for the final sites for illustrative purposes only. The project will require a formal public hearing site plan review.

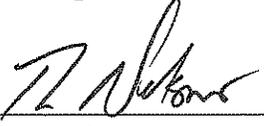
3. The site selection study resulted in four final sites after the Level 1 review.
 - Site 1: Mile 2. Eklutna Lake Road
 - Site 2: Mile 2.7. Eklutna Lake Road
 - Site 3: Between Miles 4-6 Eklutna Lake Road
 - Site 6: Parcels adjacent to Birchwood Airport and Birchwood Recreation & Shooting Park
4. After a second study of just the final sites (Level 2), site 6 resulted as the preferred site.
5. The Commission finds that a shooting range training facility is not necessarily an easy one to locate in a municipality that is rapidly developing. The selection process was extensive, encompassing 16 sites with a detailed evaluation of three or four sites. The recommended site appears to meet important criteria, including separation from most residential and commercial uses, being devoid of wetlands, having good accessibility, and being near another shooting range and an airport that already produce noise.
6. The Commission finds that although there was considerable public opposition to other sites, there were only one or two comments in opposition to this site. The Commission further finds that a public facility such as this would be carefully designed, and a public facility would be more closely controlled than a private range. The trail discussed by Parks and Recreation will be dealt with in site plan review, as will noise. This selection is well documented per AMC 21.15.015.
7. The Commission finds that this type of facility is often controversial, but it is vitally important that such a facility exist. Alaska is isolated, and there is not the ability to send law enforcement personnel to another county to utilize a training facility. The public expects law enforcement personnel to maintain a high level of training, and a facility is needed in order to do that.
8. The Commission noted that while it wants law enforcement to enhance training, there is site development concern with the potential of a stray bullet over the Inlet, partly out of concern for the natural environment, and with noise mitigation. In this request, the Commission relied on the fact that there is a 200-foot

buffer to adjacent residential uses. The owners of aircraft that park their aircraft adjacent to Site 6 are very concerned.

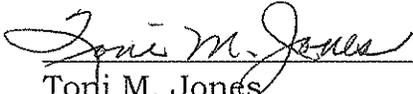
- B. The Commission APPROVES the selection of site 6, subject to the following conditions.
1. A notice of zoning action, including a copy of the approved Commission resolution for this case, shall be filed with the District Recorder's Office and proof of such shall be submitted to the Planning Department.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission on the 3rd day of March, 2008.

ADOPTED by the Anchorage Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission this 7th day of April, 2008. This written decision/resolution of the Planning and Zoning Commission is final and any party may appeal it within twenty (20) days to the Board of Adjustment pursuant to Anchorage Municipal Code 21.30.030.



Tom Nelson
Secretary



Toni M. Jones
Chair

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