

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



September 26, 2024

Mr. Mike Braniff, Director
Anchorage Parks and Recreation
632 W. 6th Ave, Suite 630
Anchorage, AK 99501
<Delivered Electronically>

Dear Director Braniff,

Due to the overwhelming community and statewide interest in ensuring the only Olympic-sized swimming pool in the state is accessible for Alaskan athletes, we write to request action regarding the Bartlett High School pool.

As state appropriators, it is a priority that state-funded capital improvements are used effectively and result in an improvement for the community – not create limitations. Currently, as we understand the design, the Bartlett 3-meter diving boards prevent full competitive access to all lanes for official and USA Swimming-sanctioned competitions.

We understand during the September 25 meeting of the Anchorage Assembly Quality Municipal Services, Ethics, and Elections Committee, you acknowledged the public's concerns with these diving board designs and the lack of public process ahead of their installment. Thank you for this recognition, your public apology for lack of oversight, and your intended efforts to initiate a thorough public process about this issue. We will be watching this process closely.

However, because of the lack of public process, we request the controversial 3-meter diving boards at Bartlett High School are removed by October 25, 2024, so the pool is fully accessible for state and regional meets in November. We understand that any further delay will impact the ability for Alaskan athletes – locally and statewide – may not be able to compete at this facility as a result.

Further, we request the designation of Bettye Davis East High School pool as a premier pool for diving practice and competitions, due to the pool's proximity to Bartlett and the existing diving well.

Thank you for your timely response and your service to the community of Anchorage.

Sincerely,



Senator Bill Wielechowski
Senate District K



Senator Löki Gale Tobin
Senate District I



Senator Matt Claman
Senate District H



Senator Forrest Dunbar
Senate District J



Rep. Cliff Groh
House District 18



Rep. Sara Hannan
House District 4

CC:

The Honorable Suzanne LaFrance, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage

Municipality of Anchorage Assemblymembers

Mr. Jim Reeves, Municipality of Anchorage Aquatics Director

Mr. Don Winchester, Dimond Alumni Special Projects, Inc.

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development