



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2024  
TO: Mayor and Assembly  
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

#### **February Lobbyist Report:** Borough Lobbyist John Harris reports:

The legislature has just finished the month of February. On a daily basis, our lobbyist attempts to touch base with the nine members of the Mat-Su delegation or their staff. This allows MSB to stay abreast of issues that may arise during caucus meetings or committee meetings.

The Manager and Lobbyist speak regularly each week during session. Regularly, our Lobbyist touches base with the Co-Chairs of Finance about issues related to the operating and capital budgets. We have Senator Wilson on Senate Finance and Representative Johnson as Chair of House Finance. Otherwise, it is an ongoing effort to monitor all bills introduced during the session to ensure they are not detrimental to the workings of the Borough. In the past, we have collectively worked together to stop some bills and amend others.

Bills our Lobbyist is closely monitoring:

- SB 242. Property Assessment
- SB 213. Alcohol Sales: Local Option
- SB 197. Residential Building Code
- SB 167. Municipal Property Tax Exemptions
- SB 155. Port of Alaska. Port Authority
- HB 339. School Grants and Bond Debt Reimbursement
- HB 280. School Funding; Local Contribution
- HB 255. Port of Southcentral Alaska; Port Authority
- HB 142. State Sales and Use Tax

Our Lobbyist is also monitoring the Board of Fish and the Board of Game, including the nominations to those boards.

**Online Payments to the Borough in February:** Since the expansion of the Borough options to make payments via eCheck beginning February 1, below are the statistics we have recorded. In

the red box, you will see we have had 386 eCheck transactions that have provided residents the convenience of online payments and saved over \$23,000 in credit card processing fees for the first month alone.

2-1-24 through 2-29-24

	# of Payments	Amount	Processing fee collected	If a CC had been used
Total Payments	1428	\$ 1,687,239		
CC/Other	1042	\$ 907,261	\$ 27,217.83	
<b>eCheck Payments</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>\$ 779,978</b>	<b>\$ 386.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,399.33</b>
Highest eCheck Payment		\$ 27,575.03	\$ 1.00	\$ 827.25
Lowest eCheck Payment		\$ 4.34	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00 minimum cc fee
Average eCheck Payment		\$ 2,020.67	\$ 1.00	\$ 60.62

**Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

**Arctic Winter Games**

- Race to get Passports underway for Arctic Winter Games  
CTV News Ottawa
- Nunavut athletes get pumped up for Arctic Winter Games, Rankin Inlet-style  
CBC
- MSBSD providing housing, food to Arctic Winter Games  
Frontiersman

**Community**

- A warming shelter in Mat-Su for people who are homeless could open next winter  
ADN

**Resource Development**

- Susitna access road and bridge a boondoggle, critics say. Actually, they open access to new natural gas prospects  
Frontiersman
- ADGC, state’s gas corporation, puts forward “pipeline first” plan for North Slope gas  
Frontiersman

**Fisheries**

- New opportunities for Mat-Su Anglers  
Andy Couch-Frontiersman
- Pink Problems  
Craig Medred
- New salmon study adds to evidence that pink salmon could be crowding out sockeye  
Chilkat Valley News

**Library books**

- City attorney talks libraries and law amid content  
Alaska’s news source

**Facebook Posts**

- Fish and Wildlife Commission at BOF - Video
- Assembly Member sponsored BOF Proposal that gives anglers 7 days instead of 2 at Fish Creek
- DoD visits Port MacKenzie - photos