



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Manager

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TO: Mayor Zak and Homer City Council  
FROM: Katie Koester, City Manager  
DATE: March 21, 2018  
SUBJECT: **March 27 City Manager's Report**

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### Project Updates from ADOT

Joselyn Biloon, a Planner with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities met with City Planner Abboud, Public Works Director Meyer, Harbormaster Hawkins and myself to update the City on several Homer area projects. The scope of work for the 2018 season includes intersection improvements at Main Street and the Sterling Highway and improvements at the Airport such as perimeter fencing, wind cone replacements and design of a storage building.

Repaving Lake Street - 2,500 linear feet of pavement from Pioneer Avenue to the Sterling Highway with sidewalks and drainage improvements, is scheduled for 2019 at the earliest. Postponed until 2019 is the Pioneer Avenue resurfacing project that includes drainage, signage, striping, ADA curb ramps and sidewalk improvements.

East and West Hill Road improvements are on the radar too. The projects may include resurfacing, signage, striping, drainage, curb ramps, guardrails, lighting and utility relocation.

### State of the City address

The Homer Chamber of Commerce invited me to address their membership in a State of the City Address on March 13<sup>th</sup>. My comments started with reference to the steady nature of growth in Homer and the health of our diverse economy, especially when compared to other parts of Alaska. I went into detail regarding the end of the suspension of the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) sales tax and what using those funds for road maintenance looks like for the 2019 budget. I also gave them an update on important capital projects for the City: the Police Station in the near term and the Large Vessel Harbor as a major long-term economic development project. The tenor of my presentation was generally upbeat and optimistic: the City and the Community of Homer have been proactive in addressing fiscal issues and creative in coming together to solve problems and **meet the community's** needs. I was rewarded for my time with a case of toilet paper; a humorous yet practical twist on the Homer Chamber of Commerce shop local campaign. I really appreciated the opportunity to present to the group and share how great the City is doing.

### Preferred Alternative Selected for Cooper Landing Bypass Project

After much public process, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities selected Juneau Creek as the preferred alternative for the Cooper Landing Bypass project this month. The City of Homer signed a joint letter with Kenai Peninsula Mayors expressing concern with the G-South Alternative, which would have exposed a lot of traffic, and potential, for contamination, to the Kenai River. The Department will now collect further public involvement, after which one of the 4 alternative designs will be chosen. This project has been in the planning stages for over 30 years. Visit [www.sterlinghighway.net](http://www.sterlinghighway.net) for more information on the project and different designs.

### City of Homer Road Miles Maintained

Council has requested information on the increase in road miles maintained over the years. I appreciate the opportunity to take a historical look at road maintenance. It is easy to absorb the impact of a few extra feet of road here and there; however it is important to acknowledge that all **those feet add up and have an impact on the City's ability to provide services.**

Below is information regarding road miles maintained from Public Works Director Meyer:

	Total Miles	# of Equipment Operators	Operators per Road Mile
Road Maintained 2001	27.14	4	6.8
Roads Maintained 2001 after Annexation	40.24	5	8.0
Roads added since 2006	6.56		
Roads Currently Maintained	46.8	4.5	10.4

### Sales Tax Data

Data on taxable sales is in for 2017. Revenue is up just shy of 2% (or a little over \$100,000) from 2017 budget, which is great news considering the 2017 budget took into account a steady increase in sales tax returns over the last few years. It is promising to see the trend continue. The attached chart details taxable sales by line of business and tells an interesting story about the economy of Homer. Not surprisingly, retail makes up almost half of the taxable sales in Homer. Right behind it are visitor services such as restaurant/bar, lodging, and guiding.

## Fire Chief Kadel

I am pleased to announce that Assistant Fire Chief Terry Kadel has accepted a permanent position as Fire Chief with the Homer Volunteer Fire Department. As you know, Terry Kadel has been serving as Acting Fire Chief since Chief Robert Painter's retirement in January. Chief Kadel is a strong communicator, understands complex organizations and has the leadership skills to grow the department. I am confident Chief Kadel will provide clear direction for the amazing group of staff and volunteers that sign up to protect our homes and property and are there for us in an emergency. I am hoping to advertise the Assistant Fire Chief position as soon as possible so we can move quickly and have a complete leadership team at the Homer Volunteer Fire Department. A ceremony officially swearing Chief Kadel in as Fire Chief is scheduled for the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The SAFER grant will provide assistance for funding HVFD staff through 2018, though the City will apply for the additional 6 months missed on the front end of the grant for the first half of 2019. I will be requesting funding for the Assistant Chief position in the 2019 budget with the hopes of being reimbursed for 6 months of salary through SAFER.

Enc:

City of Homer Taxable Sales by Line of Business  
Letter of Support for Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic

**City of Homer**

Taxable Sales by Line of Business

For Period of 1/2017-12/2017

	% of Sales	1/2017-12/2017	1/2016-12/2016	1/2015-12/2015	1/2014-12/2014	% Change	
						1 Year	3 Year
RETAIL TRADE	46.46%	83,682,658	81,563,672	80,772,233	84,047,749	2.60%	-0.43%
RESTAURANT/BAR	11.56%	20,818,300	20,525,258	19,519,154	17,887,144	1.43%	16.39%
HOTEL/MOTEL/BED & BREAKFA	8.13%	14,640,751	15,253,912	14,508,831	13,508,318	-4.02%	8.38%
GUIDING	5.10%	9,191,177	9,134,727	7,861,951	7,896,849	0.62%	16.39%
SERVICES	5.03%	9,063,831	7,924,876	7,567,805	7,430,554	14.37%	21.98%
UTILITIES	4.59%	8,267,214	7,438,399	7,365,131	6,958,442	11.14%	18.81%
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	3.31%	5,970,332	4,938,287	5,578,535	5,248,008	20.90%	13.76%
RENTAL RESIDENTAL PROPERT	3.04%	5,470,115	5,344,611	5,131,346	4,719,617	2.35%	15.90%
INFORMATION	2.57%	4,624,712	4,771,335	5,522,868	5,333,836	-3.07%	-13.29%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC	1.61%	2,892,536	2,806,618	2,714,452	2,122,648	3.06%	36.27%
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHO	1.51%	2,728,929	2,060,341	1,886,266	2,010,119	32.45%	35.76%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	0.95%	1,713,470	1,636,001	1,544,909	1,562,454	4.74%	9.67%
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING	0.93%	1,673,552	1,743,827	1,603,726	1,798,443	-4.03%	-6.94%
MANUFACTURING	0.88%	1,589,299	1,532,052	1,364,185	1,600,188	3.74%	-0.68%
RENTAL OF SELF-STORAGE &	0.72%	1,295,285	1,575,368	1,628,733	1,697,016	-17.78%	-23.67%
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT	0.71%	1,273,940	1,240,742	1,177,032	1,017,374	2.68%	25.22%
WHOLESALE TRADE	0.67%	1,211,058	1,170,229	1,127,491	1,375,377	3.49%	-11.95%
ADMINISTRATIVE, WASTE MAN	0.52%	933,946	1,171,334	1,170,222	1,252,800	-20.27%	-25.45%
RENTAL NON-RESIDENTAL PRO	0.39%	699,535	722,907	679,209	572,754	-3.23%	22.14%
RENTAL PERSONAL PROPERTY	0.38%	682,954	637,324	685,412	843,466	7.16%	-19.03%
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FI	0.23%	417,608	287,179	219,508	191,231	45.42%	118.38%
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL AS	0.23%	406,823	316,404	228,341	231,073	28.58%	76.06%
RENTAL COMMERCIAL PROPERT	0.18%	318,506	225,359	208,962	183,443	41.33%	73.63%
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	0.14%	244,672	238,290	227,241	220,947	2.68%	10.74%
REMEDICATION SERVICES	0.12%	216,679	187,201	200,371	449,077	15.75%	-51.75%
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	0.05%	98,445	66,811	55,809	65,529	47.35%	50.23%
Other	0.00%	1,430	487	3,500	2,000	193.63%	-28.50%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>180,127,757</b>	<b>174,513,551</b>	<b>170,553,223</b>	<b>170,226,456</b>	<b>3.22%</b>	<b>5.82%</b>



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March 27, 2018

Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic  
3959 Ben Walters Lane  
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

**I am writing in support of Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic's (KBFPC) proposal to the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Teen and Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Grant Program to continue its Peer Education program in the local schools.**

KBFPC Youth Programs already successfully deliver the Resiliency Informed Sexual Health and Wellness Lesson Package in middle and high schools across our community. Their accompanying Adult Talks create a high level of parental and community engagement. KBFPC has the skills and expertise in place to successfully continue this community service.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District teachers do not currently receive training in sexual health education. Consensus from school staff on the lower Kenai Peninsula is that young people need to receive information about sexual and reproductive health earlier and consistently. Teen and Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Grant Program funding will allow KBFPC to continue and expand its Resiliency Informed Sexual Health and Wellness Lesson Package, strengthening its existing program.

Continued funding through the Teen and Unintended Prevention Grant Program will sustain **important capacity building activities to further solidify KBFPC's ability to provide sexual health and human development education to youth on the southern Kenai Peninsula far into the future; a critical need for our community.**

**KBFPC's Peer Education program is the only program of its kind on the Southern Kenai Peninsula. KBFPC's experience implementing the Resiliency Informed Sexual Health and Wellness Lesson Package for two years, coupled with its 20 year history of teaching sexual health education in the local schools built a strong foundation to successfully meet and support the goals of the Teen and Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Grant Program.**

Sincerely,

Bryan Zak, Mayor