



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
DATE: October 9, 2025
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for October 13, 2025 Council Meeting

Landslide Hazard Mitigation Presentation

Living with the possibility of landslides is a reality in many Alaskan communities with steep slopes, including Homer. Join Dr. Brentwood "Hig" Higman of Ground Truth Trekking, Dr. Anna Liljedahl of Woodwell Climate Research Center, and other researchers for a presentation on their findings and ideas on how to live more safely in a moving terrain. You are invited to come learn more about

- what do we know about this hazard locally?
- how can we find out more about it?
- what can we do as a community to manage landslide hazards here?

The presentation will be held at the Kachemak Bay Campus on Tuesday, October 21st. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 6:00 p.m. Visit the City's website for more information. <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/planning/join-us-presentation-landslide-hazard-mitigation>

Karen Hornaday Park Trail

The Landslide Hazard Mitigation presentation team will be in the area for a few days conducting workshops and taking a local field trip. One stop on the team's list is the new City property above the Karen Hornaday Park campground. It will be extremely beneficial to the City to learn from the team about how to approach management and development on this property to help ensure a safe useable trail for our residents and visitors to enjoy. Staff will take the information to aid in development of a Request for Proposals for trail design.

Speed Monitoring Devices

Last year Council appropriated funds to purchase speed monitoring devices. These devices are designed to alert drivers of their speed as they approach the devices and flash the speed to alert them when they are exceeding the posted speed limit as a way to encourage them to slow down. The newer devices have the capability to take photos of vehicles that are exceeding the speed limit and are set up to do so. The request has been made to administration to look into the cost of upgraded cameras that can snap a photo that will capture the license plate numbers of vehicles that are speeding in our neighborhoods. There are a few companies that sell these types of cameras, and they can be purchased by law enforcement. I'm interested in hearing from Council if there is interest in putting City resources into researching and reporting back on the impacts of purchasing and enforcing speeding in this manner.

Homer Spit High Tide Events

Over this past week we've experienced our first round of fall/winter high tide and wind events on the Homer Spit. While the storms weren't as extreme as last year in November where we experienced damage to Homer Spit Road and properties along the west side of the Spit, there was some erosion that resulted from the tides and winds this past Tuesday-Thursday. After last November's storms the City engaged with our State Delegation and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF) Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner during our lobbying trip to

Juneau in February and conversations continued in the summer. As a result, the Sterling Highway Mile point 134-138 Erosion Improvements along Homer Spit Road was included in the Alaska State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The proposed scope for the project is to construct improvements to protect the Homer Spit Road from coastal erosion. Improvements may include excavation, coastal erosion protection, paving, signing and striping, and utility relocations. The STIP planning estimate provides \$1.5 million for design, \$100,000 for utility work, and \$6 million for construction, to occur over a period of four years. Limited staff capacity with the State and the City have hindered getting this effort underway. We were advised by the Central Region Director this summer that they anticipate having a Project Manager available in October, and the Mayor and city staff will be meeting with the Central Region Director and his team on October 10th to learn more. The next 20'+ tide events will be occurring in the afternoons of November 3rd through 8th.



First Annual Homer PD vs. Homer Fire Softball Game

Last Sunday Homer Police Department and Homer Volunteer Fire Department met at Jack Gist Park for an afternoon of fun and community support for the first annual Guns and Hoses softball game. The weather couldn't have been better, and it was awesome to see everyone out there. Big thanks to the volunteers covering the ambulance during the event, thankfully no one needed help on or off the field. The community donated a ton of food and toiletries, which have all been delivered to their respective organizations and they were very appreciative.

City Manager Meetings and Events:

September 25th and October 9th – Microsoft 365 Pilot Team Meeting

September 28th – Guns and Hoses Softball game between HPD and HVFD

October 2nd – Kenai Peninsula Municipal Managers Meeting

October 8th – Homer Police Department Patrol Meeting

And, ongoing weekly meetings with Departments, Mayor and Councilmembers, and City Attorney

Attachments: Landslide Hazard Mitigation Presentation Flier

COMMUNITY LANDSLIDE HAZARD FORUM

**Join us for an important community-focused
conversation about landslide hazards in Homer**

Understanding the Hazard

Learn about landslide risks in Homer—and what questions remain unanswered.

Lessons from Other Communities

Hear firsthand how communities in California and the Philippines have successfully addressed similar challenges through monitoring, early warning systems, and community response.

Expert Presentations

Noah Finnegan and Roy Kaimo share their real-world experiences managing landslide hazards, drawing direct connections to Homer's unique situation.

Local Perspectives

Hear from our panel on the current state of landslide science in Homer and potential management approaches for our community.

Community Discussion

Ask questions, share concerns, and contribute your ideas during our open panel discussion.

Tuesday October 21, 2025

Kachemak Bay Campus, 533 E Pioneer Ave.

Doors open at 5:30, event begins at 6:00pm

The workshop is organized by the City of Homer, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Alaska Anchorage via the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and local scientists Bretwood Higman (geologist) and Anna Liljedahl (hydrologist).

For more information, contact:

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