



City of Homer

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Memorandum 22-015

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

DATE: JANUARY 6, 2022

SUBJECT: TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR CASTNER AND COUNCILMEMBERS TO ATTEND THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE WINTER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE HELD FEBRUARY 16-18, 2022 IN JUNEAU, ALASKA

The Alaska Municipal League (AML) Winter Legislative Conference will take place in Juneau, Alaska February 16-18, 2022. Mayor Castner and Councilmembers Aderhold, Lord, Davis, and Erickson have indicated an interest in attending.

The AML is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide organization of 140 cities, boroughs, and unified municipalities, representing over 97 percent of Alaska's residents. Originally organized in 1950, the League of Alaska Cities became the Alaska Municipal League in 1962 when boroughs joined the League.

Meetings include Alaska Conference of Mayors, AML Board, committees and meeting with Legislators.

Cost estimates for travel include round trip airfare from Homer to Juneau \$700 and room rates at \$229 per night Feb. 16 to 18 only and \$259 per night for any additional nights. Per Diem is \$58 per day, for three meals. Conference cost is \$200. The approximate total cost without any additional night's stay is \$1500 per person.

The Mayor and Council transportation and training budgets have been depleted following attendance at the AML Summer Conference in August 2021 and AML Annual Conference in November 2021. Depending on the actual total costs for elected official attendance at this event, staff will include an equivalent increase in the appropriate Council budget line items during the mid-biennium budget adjust process. We will also reevaluate the budgeted amount for Council travel in FY2023 to make sure it is adequate for current travel prices.

In consultation with the City Attorney, it's recommended that not more than three Council members attend the conference to avoid potential complications with the Open Meetings Act.

Recommendation: Make a motion to approve travel and identify who is authorized to travel.