



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
Division of Boards and Commissions

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February 17, 2022

Mayor Bryce Ward
907 Terminal Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Support for FY22/23 Budget Item to Purchase a Wheelchair Accessible Van, FNSB Parks and Recreation

Dear Mayor Ward,

This correspondence is in follow-up to the action taken by the FNSB SCAC at our January 20, 2022, meeting. The SCAC voted unanimously in support of a budget recommendation to the Borough Mayor for purchase of a new passenger van with wheelchair accessibility in the FY22/23 proposed budget. Based on our understanding, this vehicle would be used to transport seniors to activities coordinated by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Transportation is vital to all of us, especially for older people who no longer drive and wish to participate in age-appropriate activities sponsored by the Borough's Parks and Recreation. Currently, options for senior transportation are limited in the Borough. The Fairbanks Senior Center is not providing transportation services at this time due to health and safety concerns for older adults during the pandemic. While Van Tran provides transportation for seniors, scheduling rides may be problematic for "C" riders, those age 60+ with no disabilities, who want to attend Parks and Rec sponsored activities.

In the past, Parks and Rec operated two vans to transport seniors and people with disabilities to Borough-sponsored activities and events. These vehicles provided transportation to senior exercise at the Senior Centers, ice fishing activities at Chena Lakes Recreation, warm and comfortable tours of the Ice Art Park, the popular FNSB Senior Recognition Day event, and other destinations. Due to difficult fiscal times, the SCAC was informed that both vans were returned and that currently Parks and Recreation has no vans available to transport seniors to borough sponsored activities. The SCAC greatly appreciates your support of this budget item to purchase a wheelchair accessible van in the upcoming FY22/23 budget that would be operated by Parks and Rec to provide transportation for senior and adaptive programs.



Please let me know if you have questions or need further information. Thank you for your consideration and support of this request!

Sincerely,

Denise Daniello

Denise Daniello, Chair

FNSB Senior Citizens Advisory Commission