

CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-13

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS ADVISING OF THE
ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS OF IMPROPER AND/OR ILLEGAL
BURNING OF HOUSEHOLD AND BUSINESS WASTE.**

WHEREAS, many residents and businesses continue to burn their household garbage and/or business waste, including plastics, unaware of the health risks to themselves and to their neighbors, and of the unpleasant smoke and smell which may travel to and settle on their neighbor's property, and

WHEREAS, this long-used disposal practice has become increasingly harmful due to the make-up of contemporary trash, the smoke from which may contain dioxins (potent carcinogens), furans, hydrogen chloride gas (damaging to the respiratory tract), benzene, formaldehyde, arsenic, cyanide, and other toxic substances, which, individually or together, may cause headaches; burning eyes; nausea; damage to the lungs, nervous system, hormone system, immune system, kidneys, and liver; or cancer; endangering community health, especially that of children and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, air pollution is prohibited by Alaska law (18 AAC 50.110) "A person may not cause or permit any emission that is injurious to human health or welfare, animal or plant life, or property, or that would unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property," and

WHEREAS, Alaska open burning regulations (18 AAC 50.065) prohibit burns that produce black smoke or which are left to smolder; and further prohibit burning of the following substances: contaminated soils, hazardous waste, medical waste, waste or used oil, putrescible garbage, petroleum-based materials (like plastics), liquid paint, pesticides, cyanic compounds (like Styrofoam), polyurethane (fiberglass, particle board), treated wood, organic solvents, asbestos, any materials containing metals or alloys, electrical batteries, fluorescent bulbs (which contain mercury), any plastics or other materials containing chlorine as an essential component (such as polyvinyl chloride, PVC pipe); and

WHEREAS, clean air, water, and soil are the basis for public health, and

WHEREAS, in their values and vision statement, the citizens of Gustavus envision a community with infrastructure that assures public health and safety, and

WHEREAS, in the 2008 Community Survey Report 87% of the community desired initiatives that would “encourage environmental protection” (Table 7, p. 19) and 87% specified “clean air and water” as the MOST important attributes to Gustavus’ quality of life (p. 110, #5), and

WHEREAS, the economic health and prosperity of the community is dependent on a healthy environment, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Gustavus prefer neighborly cooperation to regulation by ordinance, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Gustavus requests that all residents and businesses restrict their waste burning to clean, dry paper, dried vegetative yard waste, and untreated wood, in compliance with state law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Gustavus will continue to improve the Disposal & Recycling Center facility, so that we may continue to benefit from and take pride in its operation.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Gustavus City Council this 14th day of August, 2008.

Kenneth L. Klawunder, Mayor

Wayne Howell, Council Member

Mike Atkins, Council Member

Paul Berry, Council Member

Sandi Marchbanks, Vice Mayor

John Nixon, Council Member

William Unkel, Council Member

Attest: Kapryce Manchester,
City Clerk