

Debra Thompson

From: Mary Ellen Anderson <matikataco@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Assembly
Subject: Letter regarding Emergency Response Ordinance

Dear Assembly Members,

Thank you first off for the many hours you put into serving your community. It is much appreciated. And thank you, as well, for reading and considering my point of view.

My name is Mary Ellen Anderson, and I am writing to support the adoption of the updated Emergency Response Ordinance. I would like to second everything Kari Petersen said in her public service announcement on KFSK, and add my thoughts.

Alaskans in general do not like to be told what to do. It's part of why we live here. However, we do live in a society, and there are times, like during a pandemic, or during a major weather, earthquake or who-knows-what-event, when we must come together and act quickly to respond. When I worked at the school, we wrote up policies and practiced constantly for the remote possibility of a school shooter scenario. We all hated the very idea that we had to do so. And of course, teachers are all very independent folks who like to have the ultimate say in their classroom environment to suit the needs of their students. However, we all recognized that if every teacher was left to decide for him/herself how to handle an emergency, there would be chaos. In partnership with the police and fire departments, the hospital and even churches in the area, we developed a cohesive plan with a clear chain of command. We all were trained in our parts in the plan and practiced regularly to ensure calm and order should an emergency actually occur.

Just so, every village, town and borough should have a coherent and organized response. We live in a society, whether we like it or not. And when there is an emergency, there needs to be a chain of command of some kind, or chaos will reign. I really like that the city has taken people's concerns to heart and edited the plan to address the concerns raised.

Please adopt the updated Emergency Response Ordinance. It's just common sense.

Thank you again,
Mary Ellen Anderson
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