

Introduced by:	Mayor
Date:	12/10/02
Action:	Adopted
Vote:	9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2002-151**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FUNDING FOR A
FULL TIME 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT ON THE KENAI PENINSULA**

- WHEREAS,** 4-H is a family-oriented program that fosters good relationships through generations, with parents, and many times grandparents, participating and learning skills to help them become more effective leaders and guardians of children; and
- WHEREAS,** 164 members are presently enrolled in 4-H clubs on the Kenai Peninsula, and 685 peninsula youth were recorded in the Extension System 2002 Annual 4-H Enrollment Report as involved with some 4-H sponsored learning activity, which is only the tip of the iceberg regarding the total number of people touched by this program on the Peninsula and around the state; and
- WHEREAS,** volunteers who help as leaders, judges, and activity chairmen add another 100 participants, who gain experience and leadership skills which not only helps them, but many youth also; and
- WHEREAS,** a full time 4-H Youth Development Agent on the peninsula significantly helps to provide continuity and quality to the programs offered, and growth of new programs in the borough; and
- WHEREAS,** if the full time development agent position, currently employed through the University of Alaska, is reverted to a part time, split appointment, volunteers will be required to take on the planning and implementing of almost all events, which is overwhelming and causes many leaders to become frustrated, some of whom quit, requiring the cycle of leader recruiting and training to start again; and
- WHEREAS,** Choices for Teen 4-H Club in Homer reaches at least 600 youth with 4-H curriculum and materials received through grants from the National 4-H Council-grants involving ATV Safety, Violence Prevention, Drug Prevention, Environmental Safety, Cultural Exchanges, Team Building, Literacy Education, Forest Restoration, and Gardening; their publication, "Teen Times" has a wide distribution in Alaska and even "Outside"; and their publicity through the Homer News and on radio program reaches over 3500; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Junior Market Livestock Program members contact 500 business every year with presentations about 4-H; many people receive meat from participants such as the Buyer's Club, Senior Citizen's Centers, the Food Bank, the Women's Resource Center, to name a few; many organizations buy meat and use it for fund-raising for scholarships to benefit youth in the community; and all of these activities would easily benefit and reach another 500-600 people – some in need with a full-time agent; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula State Fair in Ninilchik would suffer greatly without 4-H exhibits: about 7,000 people pass through the gate and most head for the barns to see the animals where 4-H members are present to talk to them about the animals and the program, and the 4-H Exhibit building is also a big attraction that showcases the products of the projects 4-H'ers have worked on all year; and

WHEREAS, last year the school enrichment program, which is a new program not previously developed due to a lack of time, directly reached 90 youth and indirectly, through the use of 4-H curriculum, touched many more; this year, for the first time, 4-H clubs are being established in the After the Bell Program; and 4-H is working with the Community Schools to bring even more education to youth through 4-H; and

WHEREAS, young people from Kenai have been able to travel to Juneau and develop their leadership skills by discussing issues with legislators, are currently learning about cruelty to animal laws and will be formulating a bill to present to legislators, and have also worked on House Bill 111 Civil Liability for Livestock for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, more time is needed to coordinate these partnerships, and an agent who has other major responsibilities cannot explore these new opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports efforts to obtain funding from the University of Alaska for a full-time 4-H Youth Development Agent, recognizing that without this full-time position, the program will probably not disappear, but it will not be the strong, active program that it is currently.

SECTION 2. That a copy of the resolution shall be provided to all legislators representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Chancellor Marshall Lind, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; President Mark Hamilton, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Dr. Tony Makazawa, University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Bernice Joseph, Executive Dean, College of Rural Alaska, Fairbanks.

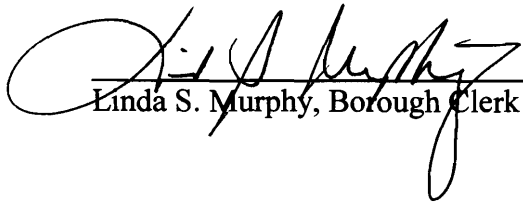
SECTION 3. This resolution becomes effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2002.



Pete Sprague, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

