09/21/2023

City and Borough of Juneau
155 S Seward St, Juneau, AK 99801
Re: New City Hall

To City Manager Rorie Watt:

The Juneau Building Trades are in full support of Proposition No. 1 to build and equip a new City Hall for the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska. We believe that the Capital of Alaska deserves a building that represents and serves the residents of Juneau.

The Juneau Building Trades view this project as an opportunity to bring good paying jobs to blue-collar workers in Alaska. This project will have a mandate requiring the usage of apprentices, allowing us to build the next generation of skilled trades workforce and enabling a pathway for our youth to stay in the city they were born and raised in while making a livable income.

We believe the City Hall remaining in the Downtown area is the most logical location as a central place for locals to gather and attend to their needs as well as the proximity to other public service operations. Moving all City employees to one building is a move towards convenience and efficiency for the Juneau community.

This project will be bid as a design build, allowing the City to make modifications with the builder to keep costs on budget. Additionally, owning one building versus renting multiple properties allows the City to see controlled costs in the long term, ultimately saving costs for current and future generations. Additionally, the vacated properties the City currently inhabits could open housing opportunities the Juneau community desperately needs. This could also lead to additional job opportunities as the vacated properties are repurposed.

For these reasons, the Juneau Building Trades is in Support of Proposition No. 1 regarding securing bonds for building the new City Hall.

Regards,

Brad Austin
Juneau Building Trades President