

Anchorage Neighborhood Thanks Governor Walker for Halting Eminent Domain by Alaska DOT against Subway

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Anchorage – Government Hill residents today applauded Governor Walker’s decision to halt eminent domain by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities against the neighborhood's Subway restaurant, and thanked Walker for his statement opposing building demolition for the Knik Arm Bridge.

Contrary to Walker’s previous direction to pause the bridge project, Alaska DOT issued a letter threatening condemnation against the restaurant on January 8, 2015. (Copy attached.) On Friday, Walker stopped that action, as he stated in the *Alaska Dispatch News* Tuesday.

Government Hill Community Council President Stephanie Kesler said, "The Government Hill Neighborhood would like to sincerely thank Governor Walker for his action. He took immediate steps to right a wrong."

Kesler also welcomed Walker’s opposition in the *ADN* to demolishing buildings DOTPF previously acquired. She said, "We strongly agree with his statement, 'Until we know we're actually going to do that [build the bridge], let’s not go and start tearing down buildings and closing businesses.'"

In addition to the Subway site, Alaska DOT contracted to have two Government Hill homes and one motel demolished this spring as part of the proposed Knik Arm Bridge’s right of way. At this time, Alaska DOT has not halted contracts for these demolitions, despite Walker's comments.

Kesler urged Alaska DOT to comply with the Governor’s policy and stop the upcoming demolitions. She stated "Alaska DOT staff need to be held accountable for ignoring the Governor’s Administrative Order."

Kesler concluded by stating, "Government Hill greatly appreciates Governor Walker’s strong and principled leadership."

The Government Hill community is an historic residential area and the oldest neighborhood in Anchorage.