

ADVISORY ANNEXATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENTS OF CONSENSUS – December 2014

- The City has grown in population while maintaining roughly the same City boundaries since incorporation.
- Many residents select to live in Soldotna because of the services that are offered to include: proximity to schools, shopping, and the hospital, paved roads and sidewalks, sewer and water, and city amenities like the sports center, parks and library.
- Residential development in the unincorporated area outside the City has outpaced residential building inside the City.
- As new residential growth flows outside, new retail and service businesses may follow their customers outside the city.
- With increasing development outside city boundaries, the need for essential service like water, sewer and public safety will become evident and residents will look to the city to provide those services. Annexation is a tool that enable the city to plan for the timely and cost-effective extension of those services.
- The City's sewer and water service boundaries go well beyond existing city limits and authorize the city as the sole provider of those services. Currently these services only serve a portion of the area within the existing city limits and a small number of properties outside of the City limits.
- The City has the unique ability to plan for and deliver essential public services to adjacent areas as development progresses.
- The city should be proactive and take steps to achieve its economic and development goals.
- Soldotna should continue to identify or create sites for new large-scale retail development.
- Maintaining a strong sales tax base is vital to the city's ability to fund public services and keep city property taxes low.
- The City should explore annexation to promote orderly, high quality development, cost-effective extension of services, and protection of the city's tax base, quality of life, and natural environment.
- The City should engage the public early in the annexation process to solicit concerns and issues, to share information, and to develop ideas about possible ways to resolve annexation issues.
- The City should research the financial feasibility of annexation in the areas around the City.
- The City should identify and address code and policy changes in advance -- before an annexation petition is submitted.