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To the Haines Borough Mayor and Assembly Members:

I would like to address two issues: expanding the number of Borough Assembly members representing our community, and valid criteria for selecting the next Borough Manager. Both of my perspectives, I believe, would help build a stronger, more inclusive community system of government.

I remember Ray Menaker. When you disagreed with him, you still had to admire his ability to listen to your perspective, and never doubted his good will and love for our community. When we formed the unified government of Haines, he participated, and suggested the Assembly have nine members. I believe he was right to suggest a larger number of citizen representatives, so that members could recuse themselves from issues which contain personal conflict of interest without dangerously limiting their constituents' representation from being voiced. There would be more overlap of representation from the remaining members. Government is a process. Code should be changed. I'm in favor of a nine-member assembly.

Mr. Dinker regularly addresses the assembly on issues of Borough Code. The last instance I heard, he referred to the manager being selected solely on professional qualifications. This made me question, "What are the qualifications, professional or otherwise, for the Manager's position?" Also, I questioned, "How have our selections worked out for us in the past?" Webster's Dictionary defines *professional* as... "a calling requiring specialized knowledge"... and ... "a principal calling, vocation, or employment". *Qualifications* gets defined as ... "a condition precedent that must be complied with..." and ... "distinctive character: NATURE... and an endowment or acquirement that fits a person (as for an office)..." So I interpret "professional qualifications" as intending to mean endowments or acquirements (qualities) that fit a person for a calling requiring specialized knowledge.

We have repeatedly selected managers with elegant resumes brilliantly displaying the candidates' accomplishments in organizations and management generally. Let us, this time, select a person with the qualities that fit them for our specialized needs. Our specialized needs require familiarity with us—our community. Hire locally and you get that familiarity up front as well as unquestioned commitment to our community. We need someone to bring our community together to face our issues, not a proponent of a particular political agenda. Successfully serving or having served in a specific capacity speaks for itself.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Steven Cunningham