

Wednesday Daylight

9 hours 48 minutes

Sunrise 7:19 a.m.

Sunset 4:07 p.m.

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# Anchorage Daily Times

Wednesday Tides

High  
0:08 a.m. 25.3 ft.  
1:32 p.m. 27.6 ft.  
Low  
7:07 a.m. 3.3 ft.  
7:58 p.m. 5.6 ft.

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# CHUGIAK BOROUGH RESISTED

## Brief Suggests Economic Lack

By RAY TYSON  
Times Staff Writer

The state Department of Community and Regional Affairs has received a legal brief from an Anchorage municipal attorney who strongly suggests that the Eagle River and Chugiak area not be given another stab at independence.

Keith Bell, the attorney, says in the brief that the Chugiak and Eagle River area doesn't muster up to standards in the state constitution for creation of new boroughs.

Bell's brief is supplementary to an official Anchorage position statement on incorporation, which also has been submitted to the state.

However, the position statement, designed by Mayor George Sullivan, does not speak against incorporation. It asks that the state deal

fairly in dividing assets and liabilities should the Eagle River area separate from the municipality to become a borough.

Anchorage will present its social and economic views concerning incorporation before the state Local Boundary Commission at a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at Chugiak High School.

Public testimony will weigh heavily in the commission's decision of whether to allow the area to secede, said Sigvald Strandberg, commission chairman.

Chugiak and Eagle River became a separate borough following an election in August 1974. However it was disbanded the following April when the Supreme Court ruled that state legislation paving the way for incorporation was illegal. Another drive

toward independence began.

Since then the former borough has been brought back into the municipality. It is represented on the Anchorage Assembly by Ernie Brannon.

In his brief, Bell says Chugiak and Eagle River do not meet social, cultural and economic standards as called for in the constitution. He charges that the area does not include sufficient human and financial resources.

"It is clear from the 'bedroom' nature of the Chugiak-Eagle River area that it lacks economic integration," Bell says in his brief. "The commercial and industrial activities normally associated with an integrated economy are simply absent.

"The prime sources of income of

the Chugiak-Eagle River community lie outside of the proposed borough.

"At any rate, a very few residents of the proposed borough work in Chugiak-Eagle River."

Bell also claims that there is a lack of social and cultural activities.

"There are no theaters in the community," he says. "There are no recognizable hubs of social activity."

Bell also claims that the proposed borough may not be wealthy enough to support an independent government.

He says that if the area were to secede, the tax rate in Chugiak would increase from 11.4 mills to 17.2 mills. In Eagle River it would increase from 12.61 mills to 18.96 mills. These increases only would provide services at the current level."