

# AlaskansforAlaskaElfinCove

A new voice for our Citizens and State



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August 23, 2012

Commissioner Joe Masters  
Department of Public Safety  
5700 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Dear Commissioner Masters,

In the last few months, there have been news reports of people claiming Alaskan residency and obtaining resident fishing licenses while maintaining a primary domicile in another state. One such person was Tom Ohaus with Angling Unlimited of Sitka and another was Robert Joseph Stevens of Alaska & NW Charters. In Elfin Cove, we see this scenario being played out on a larger scale. Elfin Cove is a small town, both in geographic size and in population. Because of these factors, it is easy to tell who is here and when someone has left or come back to town. The official 2010 U.S. Census, counted by a year-round resident, shows a population of 20 people. Alaskans for Alaska took a census last winter (October 1, 2011-April 9, 2012) and counted 20 or less people present in Elfin Cove for this six months and one day period.

The people we are highlighting in this packet claim to be Alaskan residents while they only come to the state for the 3-4 months of the summer tourist season to run their businesses. They live in their lodges and use their business addresses as their domicile addresses. All have P.O. Boxes in Elfin Cove and have their mail forwarded to them out-of state in the winter months. Enclosed is a collection of documents showing their home addresses, phone numbers, homestead exemptions, where their children go to school, and the addresses of other businesses or organizations they are associated with - all using addresses in states other than Alaska.

Another concern in Elfin Cove related to the residency issue, is Revenue Sharing funds given to the Community of Elfin Cove. Since the Federal census counted only 20 residents, a supplemental Head Count Census was taken by the Community of Elfin Cove Non-Profit Corporation (CECNPC) treasurer, Debbie Hemenway for DCCED. This census was conducted May 25, 2011 and listed 37 persons as residents of Elfin Cove six months and one day. Among those counted as residents were Joe Kulavik and Stewart Willis. Charles Fannin, Gordy Wrobel, James and Hugh Benton and Dennis Meier were listed as non-residents. Two weeks later, a revised Head Count Census was submitted to the State, counting just 25 residents for the required six months and one day. On this revised version, Kulavik and Willis are now listed as non-residents. These people admit that they have not lived in Elfin Cove for six months and one day, and we believe they do not live anywhere else in Alaska for the rest of the year. Elfin Cove is isolated and has only float plane and boat access. Juneau, which is the staging area for these business

owners, has only one airline, so their flights in-and-out of Alaska could be verified by checking Alaska Airlines records for arrivals and departures. We are not able to obtain this information.

The Alaska voter registration list for Elfin Cove has 65 people on it. This is peculiar for a village of only 20 year round residents. We understand the seasonal nature of the Alaskan workforce, and that some of our neighbors spend the winter in larger urban areas in Alaska, away from Elfin Cove. However, there are also some that leave the state at the end of the summer season and return to their domiciles. Domiciles they never gave up to qualify for their Alaskan residency. We ask the Department of Public Safety to investigate the validity of the residency claims of the people that we have highlighted.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this request. If we can provide any other assistance, please contact us.

Respectfully,

Lane Ply  
President, Alaskans for Alaska

Enclosures