

By: Administration  
Adopted: June 10, 2013  
Vote: Buswell, Harris, Lovell, Sullivan-Leonard, Wall and Woodruff in favor

**CITY OF WASILLA  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 13-09**

**A resolution of the Wasilla City Council supporting the *Pony Express, Alaskan Style!* event to raise money for large animal emergency care.**

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WHEREAS, Matanuska-Susitna Valley resident Chandra Wilson-Sutton has identified a need to establish Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) type large animal emergency care in four regions of Alaska ; and

WHEREAS, large animal emergency care to FEMA standards will require supplies and trained teams; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wilson-Sutton needs to raise funds to purchase the storage units, supplies, and training needed to meet FEMA standards for large animal emergency care; and

WHEREAS, the means to raise funding for this important cause is a *Pony Express, Alaskan Style!* reenacting the carrying of mail between a Palmer Post Office and a Wasilla Post Office; and

WHEREAS, the inaugural event is scheduled for July 27, 2013 and riders are being recruited and proper permits are being obtained to hold the event in an attractive, inclusive, and safe manner; and

WHEREAS, funds will be raised by purchase of \$7 Pony Express stamp and envelope which will be transported by Pony Express, hand cancelled, and mailed to the addresses by regular mail; and

WHEREAS, other forms of fundraising like rider registration, sponsorships, and donations may also be used to raise funds; and

WHEREAS, the *Pony Express, Alaskan Style!* will also provide a fun event for the horseback riding community and the classic vehicle community in the Mat-Su Valley and South Central Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the ride is dedicated to the pioneer homesteading heritage of the Mat-Su Valley and those that helped build the Valley into the wonderful community that exists today; and

WHEREAS, the *Pony Express, Alaskan Style!* ride will be a unique and fun event to attract participants, participant families, residents, and visitors alike to Wasilla for the finale of the 12.5 mile ride between the Palmer and Wasilla Post Offices; and

WHEREAS, organizers of the *Pony Express, Alaskan Style* desires support from the City of Wasilla for what is hoped to be an annual event to support a worthy cause to benefit an important segment of the Matanuska-Susitna Valley community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wasilla City Council supports the *Pony Express, Alaskan Style!* event scheduled to end in Wasilla on July 27, 2013 and wishes the organization much success in its fundraising efforts.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on June 10, 2013.

  
VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]






## CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT


**Resolution Serial No. 13-09: Supporting the Pony Express, Alaskan Style! event to raise money for large animal emergency care.**

Originator: Verne E. Rupright, Mayor

Date: 5/16/2013

Agenda of: 6/10/2013

Route to:	Department Head	Signature	Date
	Chief of Police		
X	Public Works Director		5/29/13
X	Recreation & Cultural Services Director		6/5/2013
	Finance Director		5/29/13
X	Deputy Administrator		6/13/13
X	City Clerk		5/29/13

Reviewed by Mayor Verne E. Rupright: 

**Fiscal Impact:**  yes or  no

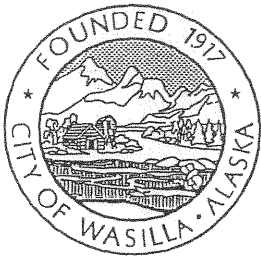
**Funds Available:**  yes or  no

**Account name/number:**

**Attachments:** Copy of Park Group-Use Application and Permit (1 page)  
 Copy of Special Event Park Use Permit (1 page)  
 Letter of Explanation from Chandra Wilson Sutton (6 pages)  
 Pony Express Wanted Sign (1 page)  
 Pony Express Map of Route (1 page)  
 Ordinance Serial No. 13-09 (2 pages)

**Summary Statement:** Adoption of Resolution Serial No. 13-09 supports the *Pony Express, Alaskan Style!* event to raise money for large animal emergency care. This event is scheduled for July 27, 2013 and is a 12.5 mile ride between the Palmer and Wasilla Post Offices and will raise funds to purchase the storage units, supplies, and training needed to meet FEMA standards for large animal emergency care should we have an emergency in the area.

**Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution Serial No. 13-09.



# CITY OF WASILLA

COPY

• Public Works Department •  
290 East Herning Avenue • Wasilla • Alaska • 99654-7091  
• Telephone 907-373-9010 • Fax 907-373-9011 •

## PARK GROUP-USE APPLICATION AND PERMIT

Park Desired: <u>Wonderland</u>	Date(s) of use: <u>July 7, 2013</u>	Hours: <u>9am - 12pm</u>
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User Name or Organization Chandra Wilson Sutton  
Mailing Address 11071 N Pioneer Peak Dr City/Zip Wasilla 99654  
Contact Phone Number 907 354 0258 Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Activities Branch and drawing for names of mail carriers  
Specific Location Wonderland Park Expected Number to Attend 100  
Do you live inside Wasilla City Limits? yes Mat-Su Borough? \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

Red Pavilion

### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE PROVIDED BY PARK USER

(Describe how applicant will accommodate these functions)

Trash Pick Up and Disposal truck trailer private cleaning crew  
Restrooms: Existing  Portables \_\_\_\_\_  
Parking: Existing  Alternate Areas \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Supply: Existing  Portable  Other  Is traffic control needed? Yes  No   
Other \_\_\_\_\_

I/we hereby agree to substantially comply with the special requirements listed above and agree to leave the park clean and in a condition equal to or better than before our use. We further agree to hold the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the City of Wasilla harmless as a result of our group use of this public facility. We acknowledge receiving a copy of Park Regulations and Polices.

Name of Responsible Party (Print) Chandra Wilson Sutton  
Application Date 5/7/13 Signature of Applicant Chandra Wilson Sutton

### CITY OF WASILLA AUTHORIZATION

Park Properties \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Application accepted and use permitted as of this date:

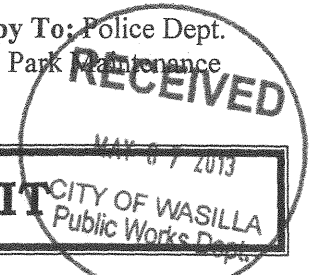
[Signature]  
Public Works Authorization Signature

5/8/13  
Date of Approval

City of Wasilla  
290 E. Herning Avenue  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 373-9010 or Fax 373-9011



Copy To: Police Dept.  
Park Maintenance



**SPECIAL EVENT PARK USE PERMIT**

Date of Event: July 27, 2013 Hours: 9am - 3pm  
(Must not exceed 3 consecutive days) (Max 8 hrs. 8 AM - 10 PM)

Event Name: Pony Express, Alaska Style!

Event Location: (Must avoid wildlife habitat, erosion, swimming areas, residential areas) Map must be attached.

Right of Way Palmer Wasilla Hwy, Seward Meridian, Bogard  
See attached  
Name of Applicant: Chandra Wilson Sutton

Mailing Address: 11071 N. Pioneer Peak Dr Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: 907 354 0258 Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Safety Measures.** Must protect participants, spectators, bystanders, provide marking of activity area, safety patrols and public notice. Engines must have noise suppressing mufflers as specified in WMC Chapter 12.20.020 C.

Escort vehicles, No more than 10 horses at each  
check point. Police traffic control @ major intersections

Applicant agrees to insure that adequate sanitation and restroom facilities are available and to remove any debris, trash, or barriers upon completion of the event.

Event officials must guard any crossing of racetracks, if applicable. Notice of event to be given in Frontiersman newspaper one week prior to the event.

Proof that applicant has obtained all applicable permits, including but not limited to state, city and borough business licenses and any additional information requested by the city.

**Insurance:** Applicant must certify that the event is insured with minimum general liability coverage of \$1,000,000 and that the City of Wasilla is named additional insured on the policy. A copy of such shall be supplied to the City prior to event.

Insurance Company Name: Integra Insurance Phone: 376-3162

**THE APPLICANT AGREES TO THE ABOVE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

By: Chandra Wilson Sutton Date: 5/7/13

Notified: \_\_\_\_\_  
Police Department Park Maintenance Other

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Archie Giddings, Public Works Director

Chandra Wilson Sutton  
1671 N. Pioneer Peak Drive  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 354-0258  
C.wilsonsutton@gmail.com

## **Want to Ride for the Pony Express, Alaskan Style?**

Howdy,

I would like to reenact the Spirit of the Pony Express with a fund raising event to take place in several regions of Alaska. My goal is to complete the set up of four Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) type large animal emergency management conex's and trained teams (including state authorities) in 4 regions of Alaska. I want it to be an annual event (update training and replenish supplies). It will also create a membership drive for participating riding association (association) and bring in cash for other needs for the association (like animal food and legal fees if needed). I need coordinators, entertainment, and sponsorship and was thinking about a video documentary of the process to get this started. My cell number is 907-354-0258. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

### **Proposed dates and details**

The Pony Express, Alaskan Style will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2013. Segments will run from the Palmer Post Office to the Wasilla Post office (12.5 miles) for the first event planned. Future routes in other regions are being developed for Anchorage, Kenai, and Fairbanks. Additional regions can be added easily depending on the interest, weather conditions, and support available.

This is for competent riders only. Remember to condition your horse in the weeks before the ride. This is a vigorous ride. The mail carrier must average 6 miles per hour. This is an express.

Advance sign up is mandatory. For insurance reasons, all participants must be members of (riding association to be determined) with a current liability form on file with the association (membership and forms will be available to you if you need them – let us know!).

Riders are asked to wear period clothes, walk with a limp and spit with western authenticity and charm.

Interested parties please contact Chandra Wilson –Sutton  
[c.wilsonsutton@gmail.com](mailto:c.wilsonsutton@gmail.com)

## **Take Part in History: Send Mail by Pony Express, Alaskan Style!**

- Purchase your \$7 Pony Express stamp and Envelope.
- Address your envelope and add your personal greeting to the letter.
- Mail your letter in a Pony Express Mailbox.

Your letter will travel via Pony Express horse and rider from Palmer to Wasilla, AK. After entering Wasilla all letters will be specially hand-cancelled and enter into the regular U.S. Mail to be delivered as addressed.

These commemorative letters are a great collectors item. Address letters to friends, family members, or servicemen.

Mailboxes will be located at: Pony Tail Tack Shop, Bear Mountain Tack, Pet Zoo Wasilla and Palmer. (Tentative spots I would suggest)

### **Planning Meetings, (Locations, time, and date TBD)**

On Saturday, July 27, 2013, the Pony Express, Alaskan Style Mailbags will travel via one route, leaving the Palmer, Cobb Street Post Office and traveling 12.5 miles (5 hours 2 mins. walking time estimate) arriving the same day in Wasilla at the Wasilla Post office on the corner of 401 N Main Street.

The ride is dedicated to the Pioneering Spirit and the Grand Marshals of the 2013 Celebration. The (pioneer icon TBD), are homesteaders who were among the early Pioneers who helped make the Mat-Su Borough a community. (Insert history here).

We hope this will be a community wide event – all riders are welcome to participate. Anyone officially entering (carrying the mail or part of a posse) must be a member for insurance purposes and sign a liability waiver. All official Pony Express riders must have completed membership/rider forms in order to participate.

For those not able to ride an actual leg of the Pony Express, Alaskan Style, another option will be available so you can join the riders as they turn in the mail.

If you are interested in helping out with this event, PLEASE contact Chandra Wilson –Sutton ASAP. Even if you can't make the meetings, we need your help! We will be putting together groups to work on all the areas needed, so get your name in and lend a hand! Call for directions to the meetings or just to show your interest!

## Rules for Riders

For insurance reasons all riders must be association members with a current liability form on file with the association. Riders who have not paid their entrance fee and submitted liability form cannot be a part of the Pony Express, Alaskan Style.

This is an all ages event. Town Drunks will be jailed and paraded through town to the pokey.

Entry Fee:

\$35.00 association Members

\$45 Non-Member (Includes 2013 association membership).

Family rate \$25 for second rider in a family and \$10 each for the rest of the family members participating.

Riders may receive a Pony Express Alaskan Style Rider Badge, a commemorative bandana, and a rider certificate. If you have an "Old West" alias such as "Deadshot Darla" or "Jumping Bean James" please make sure to include it on your sign up sheet so we can put it on your rider certificate.

Riders are asked to wear period clothes, walk with a limp and spit with western authenticity and charm. We will provide some websites for period clothes. We can arrange for a rider accident so you can walk with a limp, and will have spitting lessons at the breakfast.

There will be more than one rider signed up for each section. The riders will go as a posse. However, one Rider will be assigned as the mail carrier and must maintain a pace of at least 6 miles per hour. This is an express. There will be several hundred people waiting in Wasilla for the mail.

Riders who plan to ride the whole trail need to provide their own escort across bridges, etc. This is an express and the association cannot hold up the mail to provide an escort for riders that cannot keep up with express riders.

Please be at your checkpoint 20 minutes prior to your departure time ready to ride in case the preceding rider gets there early. If you get to a checkpoint and the next rider is not there, at the scheduled time, consult with the checkpoint deputy and call Chandra Wilson-Sutton. Do not alter alter your route, you must be at the assigned checkpoint and the assigned time.

Bring water and snacks for yourself and your horse. Hoof pick, halter, and lead rope as well.

Trailer parking will be limited. Please "trailerpool" when possible. No horse is to be left unattended at any checkpoint. Please make sure that you have adequate transportation for you and your horse to your starting point and from your final destination.



Horses must be in good physical shape. If your horse is sick, lame, or excessively underweight they will be disqualified to participate. There will not be a refund.

**Riding equipment requirement:**

Helmets for all persons under the age of 18.

Boots with proper heel designed for riding horses

Rider must wear long pants.

Saddle

Bridle

Saddle pad

**NO BAREBACK riders or Bareback pads**

*Optional equipment:*

Easy boots (or equivalent)

Cooling sheets

Saddlebags

## **Pony Express, Alaskan Style Art**

Recruitment poster

Stamps

- Mat-Su Borough

- Kenai Peninsula

- North Star Borough

- Anchorage area

- Cancellation Stamp (we need to have an Art Contest for this)

Sponsorship media

- Need someone who can put this together.

- Flyers, brochure, Program book, mug shots of riders and short histories played up pioneer style.

Forms

- Registration

- Insurance liability waiver

- Rider/Horse profile information (for fun embellishment in the history book!)

Mail boxes (rustic style)

Route map

Commemorative Items

- Bandana

- Envelope/Parchment

- Stamp

- Badge

- Participation Certificate

## Meetings to plan

### Initial promotion to

Learning Farm, January 22, 2013

Set next meeting for volunteer assignments and details ironed out

Palmer Chamber of Commerce,

Wasilla Chamber of Commerce (Lynn Gattis to help sponsor this)

Coordination with parade planners as we get closer to the date

Potential pony club or horse association for insurance coverage needs if Learning Farm can't or doesn't have a membership drive we can piggyback on.

USPS Approval to start and end at each post office and have someone available at final destination to complete the special hand cancelation.

Permitting (If any are needed)

### Planning meetings

1. Initial introduction and assignment of tasks to volunteers.
2. Progress meeting, tie up loose ends, confirm checkpoints, and assign "Deputies" to each checkpoint for safety.
3. Final meeting for confirming all items are in order and all open volunteer spots are filled. Meal planning for Rider Brunch
4. Rider Brunch (Day before?) potentially at Wasilla Lake or Mat-Su Resort (No Alcohol). Explain route, rules, etiquette, time, potential rustlers ambush points, horse and rider safety, introduction of Safety officer, wallet card of emergency contacts for the event, confirmation of name spelling for certificate distribution, distribution of bandana, badge and mailbag holder assignments. Photo opportunities, Dress the part! Media interviews? Announce how much money was raised for this event? Entertainment TBD.
5. Lessons Learned meeting. Opportunity for members to give feedback and suggestions to make next years event better and address any issues that may have come up



# PONY EXPRESS

Palmer, AK to Wasilla, AK

In 1 day or less

Saturday, July 27, 2013

 **WANTED** 

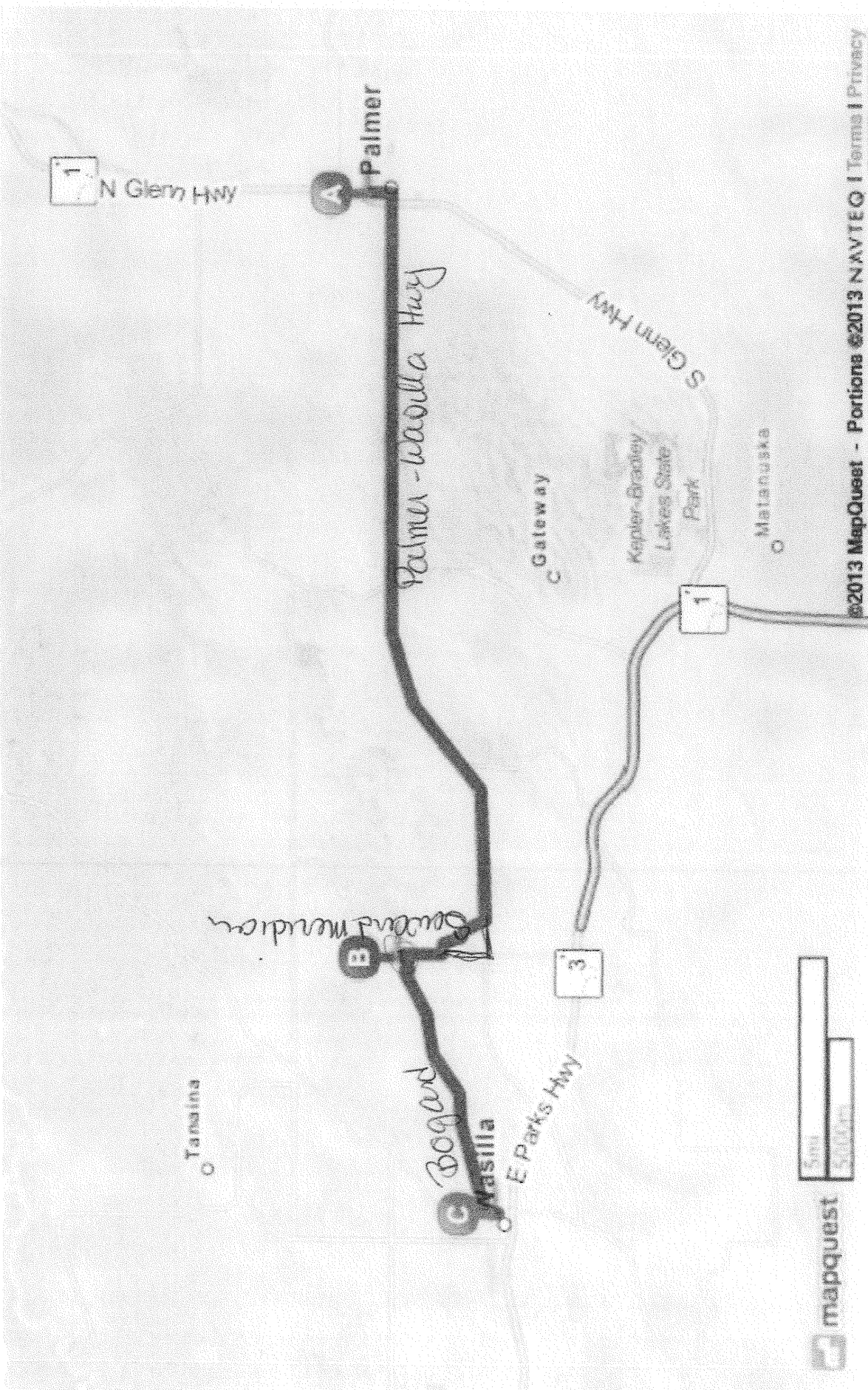
**YOUNG, SKINNY, WIRY FELLOWS  
not over eighteen. Must be expert  
riders, willing to risk death daily.  
Orphans preferred.**

*(Well, anyone who wants to have fun with friends and horses.)*

*Contact Chandra Wilson-Sutton for Registration at [c.wilsonsutton@gmail.com](mailto:c.wilsonsutton@gmail.com) or  
907-354-0258 between 9 am and 8 pm.*

*All proceeds will go to AK LARGE for*

*development of FEMA compliant Large Animal Emergency Services and Supplies statewide.*



N Glenn Hwy

Palmer

Palmer - Wasilla Hwy

Second Meridian

B

Bogard

Wasilla

E Parks Hwy

3

Gateway

Kaptler-Bradley  
Lakes State  
Park

Matanuska

S Glenn Hwy

1



mapquest