

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly

FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

Charlotte E Brower

DATE: November 3, 2015

SUBJ: October Status Report

Good Afternoon Assembly Members and listening audience.

I am pleased to report on following accomplishments achieved by my dedicated staff during the month of October:

The **Mayor's Office** staff hosted a meeting for the Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission. Commission members commented that they had a much better understanding of the intent of the commission and were excited to see forward momentum with the initiative. Staff also hosted several events and conducted outreach activities to the villages for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, we are pleased to see an increase in activity and involvement in this area.

The **Department of Inupiat History, Language & Culture (IHLC)** has now hired five oral historians based in the communities of Point Hope, Point Lay, Atqasuk, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Nuiqsut in addition to the Barrow based oral historian. The historians are becoming familiar with the oral history collections of the borough that have been gathered since the mid-seventies. The oral histories consist of stories and documentation gathered on land use, significant sites, biographies and photo collections. The intent of this collaborative effort is to help make resources more readily available to community members, and to help ensure correct spelling and documentation of place names in the borough's traditional land use inventory. This additional resource is ultimately focused on the vision of our elders to ensure that our knowledge systems are passed on between generations, and to record life histories and stories of our elders. IHLC staff also traveled to Anaktuvuk Pass to conduct workshops promoting the use of the Iñupiaq language through traditional skills such as sewing mittens, baby booties, qatignisi's and targeted young adults and high school student. Many thanks to Rhoda Ahgook and other elders in Anaktuvuk Pass for their dedication to this effort.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff attended the annual meeting of the Bilateral Commission on Alaska/Chukotka polar bears. The meeting was held in Sochi, Russia and focused on discussions relating to the management of the stock of polar bears shared between Alaska and

Chukotka. The Commission in the past has recommended a quota be established for this stock of polar bears. There has been considerable concern among North Slope hunters and leaders that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) may implement and enforce a quota beginning on January 1, 2016. The Scientific Working Group of the Bilateral Commission again recommended a quota but it does not appear that a quota will be enforced at the beginning of 2016. Additional scientific data are needed to verify whether a quota is needed and if so, what the level of a quota should be. It appears that the FWS will continue to work with the NSB and the Alaska Nanuuq Commission in the coming months to discuss the implementation a quota and the collection of necessary science and documentation of traditional knowledge.

In addition to its normal workload, the **Department of Public Works** is pleased to report that the TOS (Thermal Oxidation System) is once again operational. The fire panel has been upgraded per Risk Management recommendations; the fire sprinkler is also 100% operational. Public Works staff along with contracted support personnel will be traveling to Kotzebue Electric Association (KEA) in preparation for the Final Design phase of the wind-diesel generation project. KEA staff has graciously agreed to host NSB staff and share their lessons learned with us. They have a variety of wind turbines and integration systems in place, and their experience in operating their systems will provide us with valuable insight in designing a system that works for our environment.

The **Department of Administration & Finance** performed the ribbon cutting for the new SA-10 water and waste water facility during the month of October. Staff remains busy as work continues for bond sales and the audit.

The **Department of Search and Rescue's** aircraft were utilized a total of 109.6 hours. There were 10 Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), Search & Rescue Activities, or Welfare Checks since the last report. Three Personal Locator Beacons were activated. All of the cases were closed out with no reported injuries and all parties returning safely home.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,518 calls for service during which 76 incident reports were filed. 149 of the calls were alcohol related. 1,101 calls were dispatched and 1,417 calls were officer initiated. There were 49 traffic related contacts during which 22 citations were written. A total of 67 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 32.89 liters of alcohol, 20 ounces of marijuana, and 2.7 grams of heroin. In Anaktuvuk Pass officers attended the elders and school meeting on October 15 and discussed how the Police Department could assist them with their goals. In Barrow, staff spoke with students at the Boys and Girls Club about law enforcement careers. Officers also participated in the Healthy Living Summit and taught a class on gun safety.

The **Fire Department** celebrated Fire Prevention Month in October. Staff conducted programs at the Ipalook, Atqasuk and Wainwright Elementary Schools. The theme this year was focused on smoke alarms at which firefighters spoke with children on smoke alarms, fire prevention and what to do in the event of an emergency. The department conducted a presentation at the Healthy Living Summit that took place in Barrow to lecture students about firefighter health, wellness and to open them to career possibilities in the fire service. Across the slope there were 261 ambulance calls and 10 fire calls. There were also 28 medevacs completed in the month of August.

The **Human Resources Department's** Training & Development Division offered 20 Trainings this month with 106 students. Trainings were provided in Atqasuk, Anaktuvuk Pass, Barrow, and Point Hope. Across the North Slope there were 26 permanent employees hired and 24 temporary employees hired through a TPR (Temporary Personnel Requisition).

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** was pleased to be involved in the ConocoPhillips Alaska ceremony announcing that it's CD5 drill site began producing oil. This development has been incredibly important economically for the village of Nuiqsut and the Planning Department is committed to ensuring that the permitting and reporting for this project, like all of the permits issued, continues to be handled and monitored to the best of our ability.

The **Department of Health and Social Services** and ASNA held its 2nd annual Healthy Living Summit held at the Barrow High School October 21-23, 2015. This year, we had great partnership and participation from the North Slope Borough School district. All of Barrow High School students, KIITA and at least 10 high school students from each village were in attendance. This conference brings together healthcare providers, community participants and adolescents to address health and wellness across the North Slope. The Regional Childcare Team traveled to Anaktuvuk Pass to conduct a community café and leadership discussion with the community to address childcare needs for Anaktuvuk Pass. Follow-up meetings and planning are in progress. Wainwright is under a 30-day rabies quarantine from October 11 to November 11.

This concludes my summary report for the month of October. Thank you!