

North Slope Borough

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor *Charlotte Brower*
DATE: August 4, 2014
SUBJ: Status Report

Good evening members of the Assembly, those who are present with us, and our listening audience. I am pleased to present a condensed status report since I will be presenting the state of the borough address wherein our departments' accomplishments are highlighted.

We had a busy month in July, and all departments worked hard to maintain and improve the level of services that we provide for our residents on slope.

Everyone pitched in to help out with the annual Impact Camp that brings together youth from the region to strengthen leadership skills and healthy choices. About 160 youth attended the event, with 80 coming in from the villages. Youth engaged in activities throughout the day ranging from arctic survival, aviation, photography and traditional skills. The final report for the Impact Camp will be presented in September.

In addition to the Impact Camp, the Inuit Circumpolar Conference met in Inuvik, Canada in July. I, along with our regional delegates from ASRC and ICAS, attended ICC as a delegate. I was honored to provide comments about the issues facing Alaska Natives and how we are working hard to maintain our place at the table when policy decisions are made that affect us. It was good to see that the vision of our founding fathers for a united Inuit is still standing strong. Of major importance to us here in the borough, is to be ever vigilant that our voice rings true and clear to federal and state policy makers, and to remain united with our fellow Inuit to face the ever increasing development in our area.

As you know, my administration is very dedicated and committed to protect our bonding capacity and financial security of the borough. I'm proud to report that the transition in Administration and Finance has been very smooth, and Director Elkins has stepped seamlessly into his new role and responsibilities. The department worked hard to continue progress for the housing construction loan program, and with my staff's assistance and the good work of the Law Office, we're one step closer to provide tangible opportunities to our residents for affordable housing. There is a lot of work to be done, and I am positioning my team to strengthen our partnerships and coordinate with other agencies to address our critical housing shortage. Harold Snowball and Chris Dunbar are now Advisors in my administration, and I appreciate that both

individuals have positive working relationships with all of our departments, and I am very confident that their knowledge and experience will continue to positively impact our communities. I am pleased that James Sceeles was able to return to CIPM as Deputy Director for Director Hopson. My administration and I are ever more determined to ensure that the CIP process brings more direct benefit to our communities, and the work we've done over the last two years brings us closer to that reality.

We've worked hard to address issues affecting our employees, and one of the areas my administration has been looking at very closely is the issue of rotational employees. With your support, we will continue to protect the best interests of the borough, and make decisions and choices that benefit us as an organization.

We also held a re-signing ceremony of Senate Bill 138 and hosted a community barbeque and dinner for Governor Sean Parnell and members of the state legislature on Saturday, August 2nd. Quyanaqpak to everyone for making this event a success.

This concludes my summary report for the month of August.