

# 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: February 2, 2016

SUBJ: January Status Report

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Good Evening Assembly Members and listening audience.

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

The **Mayor's Office** Central Division has been hard at work preparing the upcoming budget. Staff working with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) has been diligently traveling to the villages to recruit new members and encourage students to develop into young leaders. Many of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council members have been focused on their community service and coming up with creative ways to educate the communities on North Slope history. The Rural Justice and Law Enforcement Commission is gearing up for their quarterly meeting and will begin gathering testimonials in each community. I attended the Municipal Advisory Gas Project Review Board meeting in January. The meeting was productive and I continued to express our needs for the best interest of the North Slope Borough.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff spent considerable time preparing for the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) mini-convention to be held in Barrow on February 1-5, 2016. Staff has also begun making preparations for International Whaling Commission (IWC) meetings for 2016. A key advance over the past 12 months is the development of a proposal, initiated by NSB scientists, to remove the "phase out" rule from the Aboriginal Whaling Management Plan. The phase out rule is an IWC regulation for commercial whaling that 'phases out' the catch if a population survey is not conducted. While the IWC Scientific Committee (SC) recommended phase-out for aboriginal whaling, it was never adopted by the IWC Commission mainly due to the efforts of the AEWC. There is now viable replacement for phase out called 'interim allowance' which the SC will likely adopt at IWC 2016.

The **Department of Public Works**, in addition to their normal operations, has been working on a Wind-Diesel generation project. This is in an effort to reduce cost and environmental effects of heavy reliance on diesel fuel to power our communities. The Department has been working with Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) on the wind-diesel generation project for the villages of

Wainwright, Point Hope, Point Lay, and Kaktovik. Phase 3 funding (Design) has been awarded to all of the villages mentioned except for Kaktovik, to release these funds each community will need to submit a letter of support which the Department is working on.

The **Department of Administration & Finance** has successfully completed all audit work. During the Department Christmas Party, funds were raised for the food bank and employee contributions were matched by the Mayor's Office bringing the total to approximately \$3,500. The Department has begun the process of building the upcoming budget. The staff would like to thank the other departments for their level of support and cooperation in this process.

The **Police Department** responded to 3,157 calls for service during which 76 incident reports were filed. 147 of the calls were alcohol related. 1,290 calls were dispatched and 1,867 calls were officer initiated. There were 77 traffic related contacts during which 16 citations were written. A total of 48 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 54 liters of alcohol, 80 ounces of marijuana and 25 grams of methamphetamine. In Kaktovik, officers have been conducting extra curfew patrols at the request of the community. Officers in Atkasuk and Nuiqsut assisted in or independently held conversations regarding anti-bullying and law enforcement topics with students.

The **Fire Department** continues to work diligently to ensure that response vehicles and apparatus are in good working order. The training division in cooperation with South East Regional Medical Services held an American Heart Association Basic Life Support Cardiovascular Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Instructors course in Barrow. The 11 candidates who participated passed successfully and we are proud to say we now have a CPR Instructor in the fire department every village. Slope wide there were a total of 292 ambulance calls and 7 fire calls. Additionally there were 31 flights completed by the medevac division.

The **Human Resources Department** participated in a career fair hosted by Ilisagvik College and Barrow High School. The table was extremely successful in rallying students to discuss the offerings of the North Slope Borough and Human Resources; they were visited by 43 students. The Training and Development Division offered 13 trainings in Barrow, three trainings in Point Lay and three trainings in Anaktuvuk Pass.

The **Inupiat History, Language & Culture Department's** IHLC Commission reorganized and elected James Nageak of Anaktuvuk Pass as Chair, and Terry Tagarook from Wainwright as Vice-Chair, both by unanimous consent. A retirement party was held in honor of Martha Hopson who retired as Education/Exhibits coordinator. The department received a small grant from the National Humanities Forum to complete some conservation work on oil paintings. Oral historian training was conducted in January, and most of the village oral historians are now conducting elder interviews and planning a calendar project for 2017 featuring our region's elders.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** has completed four inspections in the last month. No notices of violation occurred in January and the Department is in the process of working with the Northern Regions office in Fairbanks to receive information on how the state deals with tundra damage on state lands. Comprehensive Plans continue to move forward with the City of Nuiqsut passing a resolution of support on January 14, 2016. There are scheduled visits

to Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope in February to continue work on their community comprehensive plans.

The **Department of Health and Social Services'** Mental Health Group Home reports that all five permanent beds are currently filled and operating at full capacity. Behavioral Health Program staff attended the Spice Summit held in Anchorage, and the Health Department plans to disseminate prevention information slope-wide. There has been an increase of sexually transmitted infections on the North Slope. The Department is working with local partners to address these preventable infections. In partnership with the NSB Police Department, plans are underway to open and operate a regional Child Advocacy Center. This center will allow culturally appropriate regional child abuse and sexual assault investigations to be handled locally. Plans are underway for the 2016 Health Fairs to take place across the North Slope. These health fairs take place every other year and bring health promotion and prevention, as well as health screenings to every village across the North Slope. The Department appreciates village planning involvement.

The **Department of Search and Rescue's** aircraft were utilized a total of 133.9 hours for total of 60 missions. The Lear 31A flew a record high of 68.4 hours in a single month. There were 5 Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), Search & Rescue Activities, or Welfare Checks since the last report. Three Personal Locator Beacons were activated. On Christmas Eve, a search began for an overdue traveler, and both ground crews and aircraft were utilized. On Christmas morning, a pilot had visual on the location and the Atqasuk ground crew was able to return the traveler home for Christmas with only frostbite. Thank you to the Barrow, Wainwright and Atqasuk Search and Rescue volunteers for their efforts on this case.

On 1/02/16 SAR received a call from dispatch regarding a plane crash 10 miles from Anaktuvuk Pass. SAR re-routed the Rescue Bird that was returning from a medevac to Anaktuvuk Pass. After several attempts to land, they refueled and returned to Barrow. Anaktuvuk Pass Search and Rescue and NSB Fire Dept. were already on the scene. All 8 passengers survived; 2 passengers with broken legs and 3 passengers with head injuries. This is an example of the excellent cooperation and coordination between the North Slope Borough Search and Rescue, Fire and Police Department. SAR would like to thank the following for their efforts to retrieve the passengers and bring them to safety in Anaktuvuk Pass:

Raymond Paneak	Stanley Riley	Winfred Morry, Sr.
Anthony Edwards	Andrew Hopson	Clyde Morry
Mickey Paneak	Bryon Hopson	Inuli Mekiana
Fred Gordon	Randy Galloso	Elliot Asmalika
Jesse Mekiana	Fred Rulland, Sr.	Adrian Bifelt
Homer Mekiana	Matthew Hugo	Stevek Ekak
Benjamin Hugo	Brooks Fry	Austin Nukapigak
David BigJoe	Lee Savage	Danny Hugo, Jr.
Benjamin Hopson III	Joe Nukapigak	Travis Hugo
Derek Dillman	Nolita Madros	Freddie Lampe

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