

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
Phone: 907 852-2611 or 0200  
Fax: 907 852-0337 or 2595  
Email: charlotte.brower@north-slope.org



*Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor*

### MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly  
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor  
DATE: September 2, 2014  
SUBJ: Status Report

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Good evening Members of the Assembly and the listening audience. The month of August was a busy and productive month for my administration. We were proud to assist the community of Wainwright with the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Jamboree, and we commend and thank the community and participants for a positive event. On Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we welcomed Governor Parnell to the SB 138 re-signing ceremony. The ceremony was a great opportunity to bring our positive successes and achievements to the public, and reinforced our partnership with the Governor's Office. We look forward to continued prosperity and partnerships to benefit our region. Quyanaqpak to the Assembly members present, all directors, and staff that helped make this an historic and memorable event.

Another great opportunity for our region came with a visit by Admiral Papp, the newly-appointed U.S. Special Representative to the Arctic on August 16<sup>th</sup>. We were able to listen to his goals and objectives when the U.S. assumes chairmanship of the Arctic Council and also share our perspectives on current Arctic issues. My administration will continue to advocate heavily for maximizing our voice in Arctic Policy and I'm proud of our efforts to date.

Last week was also busy as we hosted Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary of the Interior responsible for lands and mineral development and other officials from Washington, D.C. We shared with her some of our concerns relating to the development of the Greater Moose's Tooth One Environmental Impact Statement and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's proposed regulations for Arctic oil exploration. Ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures and protection for our substance hunting practices are in place continues to be a top priority for my administration. To that end, I also met with officials from the U.S. Coast Guard on the formation of an Arctic Waterways Safety Committee and the progress being

made on the development of the Polar Code. It is essential that we continue to be proactive in dealing with the increased ship traffic through our region and my administration is committed to building strong relationships with our regional partners and the federal government to further our progress in these efforts.

Lastly my team has worked hard this month to implement the construction loan program and Borough staff are currently meeting with prospective clients and receiving loan applications. We are hopeful to be awarding our first loan during the month of September. Quyanapuk to the **Department of Administration and Finance** and **CAO Adams** for their continued hard work to make this program a reality. We know this is a small step in the right direction, and we are committed to assisting families without housing in every way we can.

The **Department of Planning & Community Services** continues to work hard to update the Comprehensive Plan. The Barrow Plan will be presented to the City of Barrow on September 25<sup>th</sup> and governing body resolutions developed this fall for the ordinance will be presented to the Assembly in December. Planning staff are also reviewing the comments they received for the Kaktovik Comprehensive Plan and will be presenting a draft resolution recommending adoption of the plan to the Kaktovik City Council on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The Department also worked hard to develop Ordinance 2014-10B to address the urgency of providing sewage disposal services to the residents of Pt. Lay due to the subsidence issues being experienced there.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** has been busy conducting caribou hunter meetings to discuss and receive input on the decline in the Teshekpuk (TCH) and Western Arctic Herd (WAH) caribou on the North Slope. Meetings were held in Wainwright and Barrow in August with future meetings being scheduled in Atkasuk, Pt. Lay and Pt. Hope in the near future. Department staff, with staff from the **Law Department**, also traveled to Anaktuvuk Pass to continue to work with the village tri-lateral on the formation of a non-profit entity to advocate for issues surrounding the village's dependence on caribou. My administration is proud to support Anaktuvuk Pass in these efforts and I'm grateful for the dedication of department staff in seeing this effort through.

The **Department of Health and Social Services** held a Neighborhood Watch meeting with Assemblyman Olemaun for the community of Barrow. The goal of this meeting was to gain interest of community members and sign up team leaders within neighborhoods. Other villages who have expressed interest include Point Hope. The Public Health Prevention Team has been traveling to the villages to discuss coalition building, Neighborhood Watch, drug and

alcohol and tobacco prevention. As communities express interest, the PH prevention Team will provide the needed supplies and support for communities.

This concludes my summary report for the month of August. May God continue to bless and protect our hunters, whalers and their families during this fall season. Quyanaqpak!