

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



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Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor *HB*
DATE: August 2, 2016
SUBJ: Status Report

Good evening Members of the Assembly and listening audience. It is my privilege and pleasure to provide the Mayor's Monthly Status Report for the month of July. I'd like to start by recognizing the sacrifice and dedication of Mayor Mike Aamodt for guiding the Borough through this period of transition. Quyanaqpak Mike for your service! Your leadership helped to make these accomplishments possible.

The Department of Administration and Finance received the Borough's first Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) from the Government Finance Officers Association. The intent of the PAFR is to increase the awareness of our community members of the financial condition of the Borough through summarizing and communicating the Borough's financial position in a user-friendly manner. This is a significant milestone for the Borough to achieve in its financial capacity and this recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of our Admin and Finance team.

The **Department of Health and Social Services** hosted Qaunakutiniq-Day in Barrow on July 21st that was well attended by about 80 children. The next Health assigned Q-Day will be held in Point Hope this Thursday, August 4th and the Health Department invites all interested children to attend.

The Department's Prevention Team worked with the grassroots organization, Our Land Clean up Initiative, to host a cleanup day on July 26th. The cleanup day was attended by over 190 individuals and over 180 bags of trash were picked up in Block A of Barrow alone. Quyanaqpak to all those who chipped in to make our community more beautiful!

The Community Health Aide Program met with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital via teleconference regarding implementing a statewide, after-hours

medical triage call-in system. Both the local hospital and the North Slope Borough Health Department are in favor of adopting such a system to assist in non-emergency, after-hours call outs which lead to EMS and health aide burn out.

The **Department of Iñupiat History, Language, and Culture** staff and the IHLC Commission paid tribute to two Iñupiat historians who gave many years of their lives dedicated to Iñupiat history, language and culture- the late Ernie Frankson and the late George Kingik, both of Point Hope. Ernie Frankson was instrumental in the early years of documentation and helped facilitate the first elders conference on the North Slope.

The Commission held a workshop on July 19th and a regular meeting on the 20th in Barrow. Of major interest is the Alaska Native Place Names Project that has the potential to ensure that Iñupiat place names on the North Slope are promoted and preserved. A series of meetings will be held with stakeholders on this project, and a proposal will likely be brought before the commission in October.

Department of Planning and Community Services staff along with Law, Wildlife Management, Administration and Finance, and the Mayor's Office hosted a successful Oil & Gas Forum #2 in Anchorage from July 20-22. The purpose of the forum was to promote responsible development through better coordination between the Borough, state and federal agencies, and industry. It is our hope that the forum will be a catalyst for future collaboration as stakeholders and regulators work to improve land use planning and oil and gas permitting on the North Slope. The forum was well attended and I want to thank all the North Slope Borough staff that helped to put this together.

Staff from the **Department of Wildlife Management** were involved in a number of different activities regarding bowhead whale science and management. Three presentations were made at the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission's 2nd quarterly meeting in Anchorage by Department staff. These included: 1) a bowhead science and health assessment update; 2) an update on the International Whaling Commission's Aboriginal Whaling Scheme; and 3) a general update on progress towards the 2018 bowhead harvest quota renewal.

Staff from the **Department of Public Works** conducted a 3-day RCRA seminar for North Slope Borough employees on July 12, 13, and 14 in a coordinated effort with Risk Management. Seventy-eight employees were able to attend the seminar conducted at the Hopson Middle School multi-purpose room. RCRA stands for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and it is the principal federal law governing the disposal of solid and hazardous waste. RCRA gives the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) the authority to control generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. Our goal is to continue to protect the North Slope environment from various wastes generated and to keep costs down by avoiding penalties imposed by regulating agencies due to non-compliance.

The **Police Department** celebrated its fortieth anniversary in July, honoring various department employees with awards and citations for job performance. We appreciate the efforts of all our staff and officers in the Department in helping keep our communities safe.

During the month, the Department responded to 2,781 calls for service during which 83 incident reports were filed. 102 of the calls were alcohol related. 1,163 calls were dispatched and 1,618 calls were officer initiated. There were 88 traffic related contacts during which 14 citations were written. A total of 42 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 43.5 liters of alcohol, 24 ounces of beer, and 2 grams of cocaine.

The **Department of Search and Rescue** flew a total of 32 medevac and 3 search and rescue missions for the month. The Department also sent staff to inspect the final configuration of the Sikorsky-92 helicopter and anticipate taking delivery in September. This new helicopter will be a tremendous safety asset for the entire Borough.

The **Fire Department** responded to a total of 329 calls for service, 8 of which were drug and alcohol related. The Department is also gearing up to travel to each North Slope community to perform annual fire training for Department staff. This training will ensure that our firefighters are maintaining their firefighting skills.

This concludes my summary report for the month of July. Quyanaqpak!