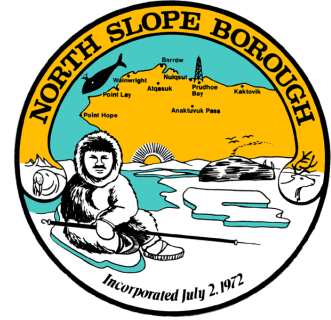


North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Josiah A. Patkotak, Mayor

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: **NSB Public Information**
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FEBRUARY 26, 2024

Last night, incidents occurred in Point Hope that resulted in the loss of lives and injuries among our residents. First and foremost, our hearts go out to the families and friends of those affected. In these moments we stand together, offering our support and condolences to all impacted by this tragedy.

The matter is still under investigation but we want to assure the public that there is **NO ONGOING RISK** to community safety. This was an isolated incident and the suspect is currently in custody.

Out of respect for the grieving process and to provide our community with the time to come together in support of those affected, the Tikigaq school will be closed for the time being. Furthermore, understanding the emotional impact of such events, the North Slope Health Department, in conjunction with the Maniilaq Association, is coordinating grief counseling services. These services are available to all residents in need of support during this challenging time.

In the days ahead, we will come together as a community to heal and support one another. Our condolences to the victims, their families, and all those affected by this tragedy and we continue to stand on Philippians 4:7: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Quyanaq and God Bless

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josiah A. Patkotak'.