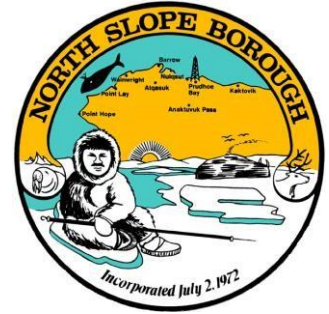


# North Slope Borough

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

*Josiah Aullaqsruaq Patkotak*



## PRESS RELEASE

### Statement Regarding Officer-Involved Shooting in Utqiagvik

UTQIAGVIK, Alaska (February 27, 2025) – On February 24, 2025, the North Slope Borough Police Department (NSBPD) responded to a report of a domestic violence assault at a residence in Utqiagvik involving 41-year-old Akugaq Leavitt.

During the encounter, one NSBPD officer discharged their weapon, and Leavitt was fatally injured. Further information can be found on the Alaska Department of Public Safety [daily dispatch](#).

As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, NSBPD Chief of Police Jeffrey Brown has requested the assistance of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI), a division of the Alaska State Troopers (AST), to lead an investigation. This request aligns with past procedures in officer-involved incidents.

The North Slope Borough recognizes the importance of public trust in these matters, which is why we are focusing our efforts on fully cooperating with ABI's investigation. We will provide updates as appropriate. After the ABI investigation concludes, we will conduct our own internal review to determine if any further actions are necessary.

We understand this incident deeply affects our community. We ask for your patience as the investigation is conducted.

For further inquiries, please contact the Alaska Department of Public Safety at [dps.pio@alaska.gov](mailto:dps.pio@alaska.gov) or the North Slope Borough public information officer at [info@north-slope.org](mailto:info@north-slope.org).

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