

North Slope Borough

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly

FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

DATE: September 1, 2015

SUBJ: August Status Report

Charlotte E. Brower

Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience.

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

First, I want to thank all of the dedicated staff that went above and beyond in response to the storm surges across the North Slope.

In the Mayor's Office, I had an opportunity to address the 2015 conference of the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) in Anchorage. I spoke on Inupiat stewardship of the Arctic marine environment and highlighted local initiatives aimed at the challenges and opportunities associated with increased marine traffic through Arctic waters.

As Mayor, I was also invited to testify in front of a joint state legislative committee on the Arctic chaired by Representative Bob Herron and Senator Lesil Mcguire. I used this opportunity to highlight the infrastructure needs of the North Slope and offered suggestions to the committee on ways they could foster greater development in our region.

In addition to its normal workload, the **Department of Public Works** has been very busy with responding to the storm damage in multiple communities. The waves and washout threatened to impact our water source, water and waste water systems, power lines, roads, and private property. It is expected that the roads will largely be up and drivable within the next few weeks, and all infrastructure that was threatened has been secured and is operating as it was before the storm. Additionally, there were challenges in pressure testing pipelines in the villages to prepare them to receive fuel shipments. This was completed but the pressure testing will need to be completed on an annual basis for regulatory compliance.

The **Department of Inupiat History, Language & Culture** had a busy end to their month. The recent storm in Barrow uncovered remains that IHLC has diligently moved to protect from the weather and pilferage. The site is currently sectioned off and tarps are protecting the area. IHLC is moving quickly to work with archaeologists to ensure that the remains that are potentially threatened by another fall storm or spring run-off from the snow will be excavated, cataloged and handled appropriately for reburial. IHLC would like to remind all residents that if you find any remains you believe may be human you should contact the Police Department who will in turn contact IHLC to handle them. Please do not move or take the bones unless they are in immediate harm's way. Thank you to the staff of IHLC for taking your role of protecting our history and heritage so seriously.

The **Department of Administration and Finance** assisted Human Resources in hosting the Benefits Fair. Employees from the villages flew to Barrow to attend the 3 days of seminars and one-on-one assistance. The Risk Management Division was busy near the end of the month assisting in coordination of response to the storm. The Department is also pleased that Alaska's Supreme Court upheld a decision last Friday setting the value of the pipeline at an average of \$9.3 billion per year for 2007, 2008 and 2009.

The **Department of Search and Rescue's** aircraft were utilized a total of 112.8 hours. There were 9 Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or Search & Rescue Activities since the last report. Ground teams including volunteers were instrumental in some way in closing 7 of the 9 cases, 4 of the cases required air or boat support from the Department. Thank you to the volunteers who help keep our residents safe. All of the cases were closed out with casualties and safe returns. Director April Brower will be presenting at the Glacier conference in Anchorage about the North Slope's Search and Rescue capabilities and how use of local resources increases those capabilities.

The **Department of Wildlife Management** staff organized a meeting of the Inuvialuit-Inupiat Polar Bear Commission in Anchorage. The purpose of the meeting is for the Inuvialuit of northwest Canada and the Inupiat of northern Alaska to share information, observations and concerns about polar bears from the southern Beaufort Sea stock. Additionally, the commission periodically updates the voluntary quota on polar bears from this stock. New diagnostic equipment namely the Food Guard unit, a radionuclide detection unit has been acquired and several staff members have been trained in the use of this equipment. Retrospective sample analysis of muscle tissues collected from subsistence harvested marine and terrestrial mammals is slated to start this fall.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,021 calls for service during which 93 incident reports were filed. 113 of the calls were alcohol related. 879 calls were dispatched and 1,142 calls were officer initiated. There were 49 traffic related contacts during which 8 citations were written. A total of 49 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 6.75 liters of alcohol, 5,216.3 grams (11.5 pounds) of marijuana, 1364.98 grams (3 pounds) of hashish, 1910.8 grams (4.21 pounds) of edible marijuana products, 322 grams of heroin and 16.57 grams of methamphetamine. In Anaktuvuk Pass officers have been teaching a gun safety class. In Atkasuk following a house fire, officers are working with the Fire Department to initiate a smoke detector installation drive in the village. In Point Hope officers assisted in picking salmon berries and delivered them to three elders. In Barrow, the Fire Department and Police Department competed in the first ever Arctic Responders Bowl, members of both Departments played a game of football.

The **Fire Department** held Basic Firefighter Training in Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Atkasuk, Wainwright, and Point Lay in August. An Emergency Trauma Technician course was held in Barrow. Course preparation continues for Firefighter II, Fire Officer, Hazardous Materials Operations and Driver/Operator and Pumper/Operator courses. Across the slope there were 288 ambulance calls and 10 fire calls. There were also 30 medevacs completed in the month of August.

The **Human Resources Department** hosted the first ever Benefits Fair from August 25 – 27 in Barrow. Representatives from PERS, VALIC, Meritain & Social Security did presentations. We also had Interactive Health come up and do comprehensive bloods draws. Employees that are eligible to retire within the next 5 years in the outlying communities were invited to attend. The fair was video recorded so we can share the presentation for those that were not able to attend. The Training & Development Division offered 21 Trainings this month. 12 of the trainings were held in Barrow and the other 11 were held in Point Hope. The Mayor's Job Program cycle has begun and 31 individuals were hired between the month of July and August.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** continues efforts to prepare community profiles on Point Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass for their comprehensive plans. In Nuiqsut, the department hosted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) exercise to assist in formulation of the future vision for the community on their comprehensive plan. The staff has been very busy with site visits and attempting to fill vacant positions.

The **Department of Health and Social Services**, is pleased to announce that today the Barrow Early Learning Center opened its doors for childcare. The State of Alaska office of Childcare Licensing walked through the facility on August 18th and everything is on track. Director and Deputy Directors along with Program Coordinators have been traveling to each village to meet with staff, have an employee appreciation barbecue and walk through the clinics and facilities. Both the staff and Director's office appreciate the annual opportunity to know the issues and the community. The Walkin' Wednesday program ended August 26th. We were pleased to have more activities in the villages but plan to make next summer, the 5th year, even more active in every community!

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