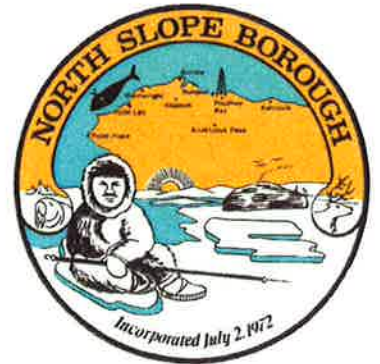


# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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*Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor*

### MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly  
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor *Charlotte E. Brower*  
DATE: January 7, 2014  
SUBJ: December Status Report

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Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience. December was a joyous month as we reflected upon the many blessing which we received over the past year and as we spent the holiday season with friends and family. I am especially grateful for the dedication of my talented staff that accomplished the following over the past month:

The North Slope Borough **Human Resources Department** Recruiting Division has teamed up with ExxonMobil Exploration and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration to assist those entities with employing local North Slope Residents. In addition, the Division wrapped up its OJT training program and all participating students have been asked to return to their jobs after the Christmas break. Wainwright will employ 2 students this semester and Barrow will employ 6. Other village schools are preparing themselves to participate after the new year.

The Training and Development Division has assumed responsibility for the Mayor's Job Program and will be working with local and outside entities to increase training and mentorship opportunities for local residents- including both the unemployed and underemployed. Job training and development continues to be a top priority of my administration and we will work tirelessly to bring more employment opportunities to our local residents.

The **Department of Public Works** has been working diligently to maintain vehicles for both the Borough and our senior citizens. They also upgraded the heaters and replaced the tires for our transit buses. The Department also completed Phase 1 of the power grid upgrades and is now preparing to start Phase 2. Contractors are changing out the copper jumpers that are on the power grids, checking for loose connections, and putting in primary line spreaders so our power lines will not hit each other during high wind conditions. This will help us to reduce incidents of power outages during severe weather events. Damaged primary lines are also being replaced as

needed.

Other projects being pursued include the use of micro-turbines as stand-by generators and pushing our Wind Generation and Transmission Line projects to the next stage of development. In addition, the Department is continuing to work on its Weatherization Program. Crews will be mobilizing to Kaktovik in January to weatherize 12 eligible homes there and plan on remaining there through the month of February. We continue to perform village outreach and make presentations to the communities to educate residents on this program. For the current Program Year (April 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014), program presentations have been made in the villages of Wainwright, Point Lay, Kaktovik, and Atqasuk. The weatherization team plans to present in Nuiqsut next.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** has been working on the completion of Comprehensive Plans for all North Slope communities. Department staff have been working hard to complete the draft plan for the Village of Wainwright and anticipate presenting the final plan before the Planning Commission in February. Planning staff are also working to schedule public meetings in Kaktovik to review that community's draft Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Department is continuing to work on feasibility studies for gravel mine site development. Results from recent drilling activities were delivered earlier in the month and discussions with other Borough departments and Umiq continue. In addition, the Department's Geographic Information Systems Division is working to complete land-use maps for all North Slope Communities. Maps have been sent to Anaktuvuk Pass, Kaktovik, and Nuiqsut and maps for Point Hope should be going out shortly

The **Department of Health and Social Services** held a food drive and shipped food to the village of Atqasuk in time for Christmas. Many thanks to the employees who sacrificed for the benefit of others during this Christmas season. Another exceptional Health Department employee, Public Health Officer Sarah Coburn, was recognized in the Arctic Sounder for her efforts in providing much needed services in the North Slope Borough Veterinary Clinic. Sarah was even nominated for a national award by some of her clients!

Progress was also made with the City of Kaktovik and the Arctic Slope Community Foundation in regards to the helmet grant that the NSB Health Impact Assessment Program and the City of Kaktovik jointly applied for. A grant was awarded to the City of Kaktovik to purchase helmets for children as a result of the HIA Presentation of data and the concern of the community to increase awareness to prevent unintentional injuries.

Lastly, the NSB Health Department is planning on a three day health and social services summit that focuses on educating and sharing ideas for improved health for North Slope residents. The Department will partner with local agencies to offer training and education on substance abuse, suicide prevention, obesity, healthy living, stress management and a variety of other topics. The intended audience are providers, social program staff, health aides, social service workers, youth advocates, tribal and youth in leadership. If you would like to participate and help plan the

conference, please contact Director Leavitt.

The **Police Department** has hired two new officers to fill grant funding positions for NPR-A Impacted Communities. During the month of December, Police responded to 2,752 calls for service. Six citations were issued and 49 cases were submitted to the District Attorney for review. The Police Department was also successful in interdicting large quantities of alcohol and illicit drugs destined for North Slope Communities.

On top of their law enforcement responsibilities, Police staff joined with AWIC to conduct a Christmas art activity for youth at the Police Department. Hot chocolate, treats and Christmas stories were enjoyed by all present!

The **Fire Department** continued regular operations in all villages during December 2013. The Department also hired George Tagarook as the Assistant Chief for Village Operations. George comes with more than 30 years of experience working as the Village Fire Chief in Kaktovik. The Fire Department continues to work to further our village operation program to ensure that our communities are safe and that personnel are properly trained and ready to respond to emergencies. Overall, the Department responded to 242 calls for service Slope-wide.

**North Slope Borough Search and Rescue** continues to maintain its mission of serving our citizens. SAR conducted 7 medivac and 1 emergency flight for the month of December. It also responded to an activated Personal Locator Beacon and conducted a successful search and rescue mission for a stranded snowmachiner. I am grateful for the efforts of our Search and Rescue team that work hard to protect our residents.

This concludes my summary report for the month of December. I wish all of you a very Happy New Year!