

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 69  
Barrow, Alaska 99723  
Phone: 907 852-2611 or 0200  
Fax: 907 852-0337 or 2595



*Mike Aamodt, Mayor*

### MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly  
FROM: Mike Aamodt, Mayor  
DATE: May 3, 2016  
SUBJ: Status Report

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Good evening Members of the Assembly and listening audience. The month of April was a busy and productive month for my administration.

The **Mayor's Office**, along with staff from various Borough departments traveled to Anaktuvuk Pass and delivered citations from the Alaska State Legislature to the heroic people in that village who responded to a plane crash back in January. Thanks to their efforts, no lives were lost and a major tragedy was averted. Their spirit and selfless service to their fellow men are an inspiration to us all! We would also like to thank Rep. Bennie Nageak and his staff for their assistance in preparing the citations.

The **Department of Health and Social Services'** Arctic Women in Crisis sponsored comedian and drug abuse counselor, Don Burnstick, in Barrow and Atkasuk. Mr. Burnstick conducted drug/alcohol addiction and healing workshops with students and two comedy shows.

The Department, in partnership with the Alaska Children's Alliance and the Barrow Boys and Girls Club, conducted a Go Blue walk with students. After the walk, NSB School District representatives, police officers, and AWIC leadership spoke to students about safety and resources in the community.

In honor of National Public Health Week, the Prevention team partnered with community agencies to provide "This is Public Health" education in the AC store and at Piuraqta. The Health Impact Assessment Program is also working with the Law Department on analyzing air quality data for the village of Nuiqsut in response to community concerns.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services'** Capital Improvement Program Office (CIP) completed its presentations at the Project Review Committee's annual workshop. CIP worked hard

with all Borough departments and the School District to identify capital project needs throughout the Borough. Ultimately, a capital ordinance recommendation of \$90M was made to the Mayor to address the Borough's most urgent and critical capital needs.

CIP has also been updating the CIP Detail Financial Report (6-Year Plan) and the Current Capital Improvement Financial Summary. A task order was issued to contract professional support in preparing the 2016 Community Profile Reports. The 6 Year Plan will be reviewed and approved by the Mayor before being presented along with the Capital Plan to the NSB Planning Commission this month.

Staff from the **Department of Wildlife Management** continue to work with the Mayor's Office, the Law Department, and NSB representatives in Washington DC concerning possible regulations, including a quota, for subsistence hunting of polar bears in the Chukchi Sea. The NSB is very concerned about proposed regulations because the science doesn't support the need for a quota and villages and hunters have only recently been informed about a quota and other regulations.

One issue with the proposed regulations and quota concerns the boundary between Chukchi Sea polar bears and Beaufort Sea bears. Even though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been telling us for years that regulations would only apply to villages from Point Lay to the south, they recently informed us that the regulations would also apply to Wainwright and Barrow. The NSB is working to delay regulations until there is adequate science to support the need for a quota, and to try to make sure that if regulations are proposed, they be for a boundary at Icy Cape and not include Wainwright and Barrow.

The **Department of Inupiat History, Language and Culture** conducted a Barrow Cultural Day event with the Alaska Army National Guard. Staff gave National Guard members a tour of IHLC facilities and provided them with an opportunity to sample native foods such as maktak, cooked uunaalik, tuttu soup, and Eskimo donuts. The Ovluaq Dance Group provided entertainment.

Staff from the **Department of Public Works** assisted the communities of Pt. Hope and Pt. Lay in sending resolutions to the Alaska Energy Authority documenting support for wind-diesel generation projects in their communities. This will enable staff to move forward with Phase 3 (final design and permitting) for the project.

In order to minimize dust exposure of prepared food, Public Works have tasked their operators to plow snow and spread it on the roads as part of a dust control and air quality measure. With our current conditions, they are unable to water the roads at this time. A Public Works Public Service Announcement has been sent to the public and asking them to keep a safe distance from heavy equipment. They will continue to monitor conditions over the upcoming days and weeks and adjust operations as necessary.

**Department of Human Resources** staff members participated in the BHS Scholarship/Internship Fair on April 6th at the Barrow High School Auditorium. This provided a good opportunity to talk to the senior students about work and employment opportunities available on the North Slope before they enter the workforce or leave for college. In addition, HR Training & Development offered 12 trainings in Barrow, 10 in Nuiqsut, 2 in Prudhoe Bay, and 6 in Point Hope for a total of 30 trainings.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,518 calls for service in April and 80 incident reports were filed. 95 of the calls were alcohol related. 1,068 calls were dispatched and 1,530 calls were officer initiated. There were 103 traffic related contacts during which 14 citations were written. A total of 53 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 13.5 liters of alcohol, 156.32 ounces of marijuana, 226 grams of Heroin, and 3401 grams of meth.

In Anaktuvuk Pass, officers assisted ASRC with their presentations at the school on choosing respect and making good choices. Officers also attended the community training on Suicide Prevention Awareness. In Kaktovik, officers have been conducting extra curfew patrols at the request of community members, participated in the game and activity club for kids, baked a triple chocolate cake for a community cake walk, and provided traffic control for the cross country ski team.

Officers are working with local entities in Nuiqsut to obtain fire extinguishers for residents and gave a presentation on drugs for students at the school. In Point Lay, officers attended the tribal council meeting and provided food for members of the community who had no money. Police officers also attended the ASRC days at local schools in Barrow and spoke about law enforcement and drug abuse.

The **Department of Search and Rescue** responded to multiple search and rescue calls throughout the month from individuals traveling along the Rollagon trails- including some who were injured. In addition, the Department flew over 26 medevac, 3 emergency, and 3 department support missions.

Staff members from the **Fire Department** traveled to the Fire Department Instructors Conference where they learned new instruction techniques and got to test new fire equipment. There were vendors from both Fire and Emergency Medical Services that participated from across the world. They also responded to 329 ambulance calls- 9 of which were drug and alcohol related- and 13 fire calls.

This concludes my summary report for the month of April. May God continue to bless and protect our hunters, whalers and their families during this spring season. Quyanaqpak!