

# North Slope Borough

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

*Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor*



### MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Members

FROM: Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor

DATE: February 5, 2019

SUBJ: Mayor's Status Report for January 2019

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Good afternoon Assembly Members and listening audience.

Fenton Rexford from Kaktovik reminded me that 45 years ago the North Slope Borough Home Rule Charter Committee completed their draft for voter approval. Within just a few short years, their dream became a reality. I am humbled by the magnitude of their vision and find it very helpful to read the preamble to our Charter when we are faced with major decisions. I encourage you to do the same.

January was a busy month. The Planning Department completed the final editing of our Areawide Comprehensive Plan after receiving public comments. This was presented to the Planning Commission and will be introduced tonight for a public hearing in March. It is extremely important that we have accomplished this at this point in time. This is not a coincidence. Now more than ever, we must communicate our vision going forward and connect it to the vision of our founders. Our resources and way of life are not simply a topic of local conversations now and having a Comprehensive Plan that clearly communicates our circumstances and our vision is more important than ever.

We are carefully monitoring news from our newly formed state government since the election. The State's legislative session is in week 4 and I am providing you with an attachment to this month's report from our Government Affairs Director D.J. Fauske.

We are preparing communication with Federal Lobbyists and Representatives to counteract an apparent move to change Federal and State law for the purpose of increasing the State's share of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Special Revenue Fund. We are concerned that they will attempt to limit the revenues available to the Borough and NPR-A village governments impacted by activities associated with NPR-A leasing and development. We will be meeting with all or our NPR-A communities following the legislative session to consider the best strategy to protect this critical source of revenue.

The Inupiat Circumpolar Council in partnership with the Arctic Council and the Sustainable Development workgroup hosted a three day project on Circumpolar Resilience, Engagement and Action through Story that supports suicide prevention and mental wellness strategies between the Arctic States. Edith Spear was nominated by her peers as the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) Representative. Edith was the 2017 Youth Rep. for our region with the First Alaskans Institute. She is the senior class president for Barrow High School and is a very active community service volunteer. She has also been selected attend an ICC workshop in Inari, Finland on January 30th.

Samuel Henry of Point Lay, also a MYAC member was selected to attend an ICC Food Sovereignty and Self Governance Workshop in Bethel on February 26 with me. Samuel a senior at Kali High School, expressed his love for hunting and gathering for his family and community in an autobiography written upon enrollment to MYAC.

We were successful in hosting our annual “Sober Super Bowl” this past weekend, across the North Slope. Our staff partnered with the North Slope Borough School District to deliver a live stream of the NFL game to the communities for a fun family event. **Quyanaqpak** to the staff at the school district and liaison offices who made this event a success.

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The following are departmental endeavors toward achieving the Mayor’s Initiatives:

The **Department of CIPM** has recognized significant need for project representation in Nuiqsut due to the current and future project work involving airport and road improvements, power grid, and power plant improvements, and a new public works facility. In this regard, we are posting to hire a full-time permanent project coordinator this summer to respond and report on our project activity in the community back to our central office. A similar position will also be solicited for Wainwright. The anticipation is that these positions will alleviate project stress on the community by ensuring coordination and communication of concerns on a timely basis back to CIPM central office managers, as well as maintaining a continuous level of recorded monitoring of contractor labor and their material usage. This position will subsequently be posted in the other villages.

CIPM has reached out to UICC regarding finishing up the Assembly Room. UICC's subcontractor will be up here February 18th to work on the mics in the assembly room and the work should be completed in about a week from start.

CIPM has obtained funding for dumpsters and are awaiting comments regarding the prototype bear proof dumpsters that were placed in Kaktovik. If the feedback is positive CIPM will purchase more bear proof dumpsters for Kaktovik. CIPM will also work with Public Works to assess the replacement of dumpsters for Utqiagvik and Point Hope.

The **Department of Public Works** has filled the position of Enterprise Fund Business Manager for Service Area 10 in Prudhoe Bay. This begins the process of transitioning operations from Administration and Finance to the Department of Public Works as established in our Municipal Code of Ordinances.

Local Water & Sewer Operators in Anaktuvuk Pass and Atqasuk are certified for compliance with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation water treatment regulations. Two operators from Nuiqsut and one from Kaktovik attended Wastewater Treatment and Wastewater Collection training held at Ilisagvik College in December. We are looking at repeating the training for village operators who unable to attend due to weather.

Staff attended the Commercial Driver’s License class recently held in Anaktuvuk Pass by Ilisagvik College. Eight of the participants are in Fairbanks taking the test to become certified. We commend and thank Ilisagvik College for providing this training opportunity in Anaktuvuk Pass and look forward to replicating it in other communities across the North Slope. Our goal is to not only fill our local positions with qualified operators, but to also use them to assist by roving to other communities as needed.

To address staff shortages and weather emergencies in several of our communities, we are roving Heavy Equipment Operators out of Utqiagvik and Point Hope to assist. While these positions are temporary, we will create full-time permanent positions hired out of any of our outlying villages to travel to other villages as needed.

The **Fire Department** continues to move forward with the establishment of an Explorers Program for the North Slope Borough Emergency Services. We have visited the schools in Nuiqsut and Wainwright to promote the program and will be visiting schools in all remaining North Slope Communities over the next two months. While traveling to our North Slope Communities for the Explorers Program, we are also supporting each Volunteer Fire Department's effort to increase volunteer membership and participation. Fire Chiefs have elected to hold an Open House during these visits, which allows community members to come into the Station to ask questions about the services we provide, training opportunities, volunteer requirements, and answer any question that the youth and community members may have.

Below are the details of 246 Ambulance calls, 9 Fire Calls and 51 Medevac Transports:

Village	Ambulance Calls	Fire Calls	Medevac Transp.	ETOH	Drugs
Anaktuvuk Pass	22	0	3	0	0
Atqasuk	11	0	1	0	0
Wainwright	31	0	2	0	0
Kaktovik	12	0	0	0	0
Nuiqsut	35	0	7	4	0
Point Hope	40	1	4	0	0
Point Lay	17	1	4	1	0
Utqiagvik	78	4	30	18	1
Totals	252	9	351	23	1

The **Department of Search & Rescue** continues to maintain its mission of serving the North Slope Residents. SAR provides safe, efficient and reliable airborne response to aero medical evacuation (medevac), search and rescue, and other emergencies. All units of Search and Rescue contribute to fulfilling our mission.

Below are the details for 10 related activities performed last month:

12/20	NUI	Received a call to do a well fare check on truck's traveling from Prudhoe Bay to Nuiqsut. All ok, no reported injuries.
12/20	AIN	PLB Notification 16 miles North East of AIN. AIN VSAR was dispatched all returned with no reported injuries.
12/23	PHO	Received a call from PHO VSAR regarding traveler traveling from Kivalina to PHO, individual was found near Chariot cabin, individual snow machine broke down. All return with no reported injuries.
12/26	PHO	Received a call from PHO VSAR regarding a traveler traveling broke down snow machine outside of PHO. PHO VSAR was dispatched, all returned with no injuries.
12/26	BRW	Received a call from an individual to do a well fare check. No assets were dispatched, traveler was still in town. No report or injuries.
12/31	BRW	PLB Notification outside of Barrow. NSB Helo was dispatched and brought back to Barrow with no reported injuries.
1/01	BRW	PLB Notification 25.6 miles South of Barrow. Traveler broke through the riverbed,

		NSB SAR was dispatched, all returned with no reported injuries.
1/06	BRW	NSB SAR received a call regarding trapper 75 miles out from Barrow needing assistance. NSB Helo was dispatched. No reported injuries.
1/08	ATQ	Received a call from ATQ VSAR of 2 person 60 miles out with broken snow machine. Due to the cold, it took two days to retrieve the individuals.
1/20	AKP	PLB Notification near AKP, no assets or ground crew utilized. Before we could go turned into a self-rescue. No reported injuries.
11/22	AKP	AK18083725, PLB Alert, AKRCC, AST, Anaktuvuk pass SAR ground crew dispatched to site south of Community, located person and was assisted back to AKP. No injuries reported, closed out AKRCC, on Alert, closed out mission with AST.
11/25	NUI	AK18084257, NUI SAR called for mission, AST contacted, person stuck 25 miles north of Nuiqsut, in a truck. 1 adult 1 child. Sar truck and community truck headed to site, got truck out broke 4 wheel drive, no reported injuries, closed out with AST

NSB Aircraft logged 106.3 hrs. of flight time performing 36 sorties; details are provided below:

Aircraft	Sorties	Hours	Other
Learjet N789SR	12	43.5	Performed minor maintenance, none that required put it out of service. Has 30.8 hours until Phase A inspection.
Bell N402ES	3	4.2	Primary 412 ready to go. Annual 100 hour inspection is due in 100.0 hours.
Bell N401ES	0	0	Has 41.5 hours out from an overhaul. Has 54.9 hours until 100 inspection. In the process of removing from fleet.
King Air N408SR	14	38.8	Routine maintenance has been complete. Phase 1 Inspection is due in 192.3 hours.
S-92	7	19.8	Aircraft was down for once for scheduled maintenance. Next 50 hour inspection is in 17.0 hours.
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>106.3</b>	

The **Department of Human Resources** has the following recruiting statistics to report:

Community	BRW	AKP	ATQ	KAK	NUI	PHO	AIN	PIZ
Permanent	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Temporary	8	0	0	2	2	2	1	1
ETP	6	1	0	1	0	6	1	0
Interns	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The **Police Department** has hired the first Community Safety Officer in Utqiagvik. The CSO's are being tasked with civil paper service, attending community events, curfew patrols, and numerous other responsibilities that will support healthy and safe communities across the North Slope. Our CSO's can be recognized by their brown colored uniforms which are distinct from the traditional blue Police Officer uniforms. The selection process for hiring the CSO's in the communities of Wainwright, Point Hope, and Nuiqsut are underway.

During the month of January 2019, the Police Department responded to 2,451 calls for service during which 100 criminal and noncriminal cases were filed. 179 of the calls were alcohol related, 22 calls were drug related, and 60 calls were domestic violence related. 1,037 calls were dispatched and 1,414 calls were officer initiated.

A total of 61 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney for prosecution. More details on those calls are provided below:

Community	Total Calls	Alcohol	DV	Drug
Anaktuvuk Pass	198	12	0	0
Atqasuk	49	0	0	0
Kaktovik	102	5	0	1
Nuiqsut	131	1	0	2
Point Hope	182	8	4	1
Point Lay	137	1	0	0
Deadhorse	163	3	0	5
Utqiagvik	978	106	16	23
Wainwright	140	7	0	0
Total	2080	143	20	32

Drug Seizures (On Slope):

**Total Alcohol:**

- 4 (750) ml of distilled spirits in AKP
- 11 (12oz) Malt in PHO

**Total Drugs:**

- 11 ounces of Cocaine in BRW
- 12 ounces of Fentanyl in BRW
- 16 oz. Hash Oil in BRW
- 1 pound of Marijuana in AIN

Task Forces:

**NSBPD Detectives continue to participate in multiagency task forces with our law enforcement partners.**

**Total Alcohol:**

63 (750) milliliters of distilled spirits

**Total Drugs:**

- 112.7 grams of Methamphetamine
- 6.2 grams of Cocaine HCL
- 5.9 grams of Crack Cocaine
- 56.7 grams of Methadone
- 56.7 grams of Hydrocodone
- 56.7 grams of Xanax

The **Health Department** Public Health Nurses traveled to Kaktovik and offered child immunizations, infant health screenings, well child checks, developmental screenings, healthy lifestyle screenings and counseling. They continue to have ongoing community walk-in flu clinics and continue to distribute educational material for head lice, bed bugs, emergency preparedness, flu, and MMR.

The Integrated Behavioral Health Sober Living Home has opened its doors and is currently in operation. The Sober Living Environment is committed to the support of men struggling with addiction in developing the skills necessary to lead sober, productive lives.

Our program of personal responsibility and spiritual growth blends therapeutic modality with structured living and care to address each individual's unique needs.

Our goal is to safely and effectively bridge our residents back into the community and families, with all of the tools necessary to maintain long-term, meaningful sobriety through supportive care, advocacy, and recovery focused skills development in the following areas: Daily Living and Self-Care, Community Living, Living Independently, and Dealing with the Effects of Chemical Dependency

We believe anyone can achieve lasting recovery if given the proper understanding, structure and, most of all, support. The Sober Living Home is the place to systematically increase personal responsibility and life skills, allowing each resident the opportunity to choose his own destiny and flourish in a new way of life.

The following are the Criteria for the program:

1. Individuals can be self-referred, IBH provider referred or referred from an outside agency.
2. Prospective residents must meet the eligibility requirements of having completed an assessment through IBH with a SUD diagnosis and in need of supportive sober housing.
3. An internal referral is completed and forwarded to the Sober Home case-manager after the treatment plan is completed and supportive sober housing is identified on the plan.
4. Sober Home case-manager contacts prospective resident and informs him of entry date.
5. Sober Home case-manager maintains a waitlist and contacts clients on the waitlist as vacancies are identified.
6. Occupancy is on a first come/first serve basis. The facility naming contest has concluded and a final determination is underway.

**IHLC** is partnering with the Health Department Children and Youth Services to deliver classes on Iñupiaq sewing and cultural activities. We've hired a Cultural Expert to teach the kids and their parents cultural skills such as sewing, beading, and drumming. This experience will give both staff and clients new skills and a greater connection to the culture and values of the North Slope. We are working to integrate this knowledge into daily activities to help the youth develop and maintain healthy and positive cultural values and identity.

The Ivalu workshop is being held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at the Inupiat Heritage Center. We are in the process of obtaining a new Table Saw for the Traditional room.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** NSB AW Census activity has begun. A team has been developed and training has begun for NSB staff and residents. The census has already begun in Nuiqsut, Pt. Hope and Wainwright. Our goal is to complete all North Slope data acquisition by early March.

Community outreach for the CWAT Trail is scheduled. Contracts are in place, however we were impacted by the Government Shutdown in getting BLM's final authorization for Wainwright and Anaktuvuk Pass. Work will begin from Kuparuk to Utqiagvik. Prudhoe, Utqiagvik, Atqasuk, and Wainwright contracts are in place. The contractor is working with Conoco Phillips to coordinate transition from gravel infrastructure to snow covered tundra.

Contractor has pioneered trail from Barrow to Atqasuk. Currently we are awaiting final authorization from BLM from Atqasuk to Wainwright.

Galbraith Lake to Anaktuvuk Pass contracts are in place. Work will begin once final authorizations have been obtained.

**Wildlife Department** staff are working hard to prepare for two bowhead whale population abundance surveys in 2019: A spring ice-based count at Utqiaġvik in April and May; and a large-scale aerial survey in August 2019. Currently staff are recruiting whale survey observers from the villages. People interested in working on the survey should call the department at 907.852.0350.

Point Hope reported sightings of several polar bears, as well as several harvested by residents. There were concerns for community member's safety, including children who walk to school. Staff has hired polar bear patrollers in Point Hope.

Traditional knowledge data collected from hunter interviews is being converted into "informed priors", which will be used to improve the function of a seal movement and habitat use model.

Staff participated in the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council's Harvest Assessment Program 2018 Survey Training. There was discussion on why this survey is important and the use of subsistence harvest data. We reviewed the survey timetable, methods and materials. Communities that will be surveyed are Point Hope, Wainwright, Kaktovik, and Utqiaġvik.