

North Slope Borough

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor



MEMORANDUM

TO: Assembly Members

FROM: Harry K. Brower, Jr., Mayor

DATE: March 5, 2019

SUBJ: Mayor's Status Report for March 2019

Good afternoon Assembly Members and listening audience.

On February 18, 19 and 20th we hosted a Healthy Communities Mini Summit in Utqiagvik to engage our residents on topics such as Adverse Childhood Experiences, Addiction Awareness, FASD, Wellness, and Healing, and the importance of community volunteering. The theme of this three day summit was *Be the Reason, Be the Change, Be the Difference*. Great presentations were shared from local presenters, panelists, and community faith leaders. Special guest speakers were also invited to present on their areas of expertise which included behavioral health, spiritual wellness, and addictions.

Residents from most of our North Slope communities flew in to attend the three day summit and for those who were unable to attend in person, presentations were aired on KBRW and live streamed through the Health Departments Facebook page. I want to thank those who sponsored the breakfasts and lunches for our visitors, and thank you to our staff who worked selflessly to make this Summit a success. Quyanaqpak.

On February 21st I met our newly elected Governor and legislators in response to Senate Bill 57, which essentially is an attack on our region and other local municipalities.

Senate Bill 57 released by Governor Dunleavy's office as part of his budget plan for the next fiscal year would repeal the taxing authority of several municipalities, including the North Slope Borough and would divert oil and gas tax revenue to the State of Alaska General Fund. I was very hurt and angry by this news but the Iñupiat way is to think, act, speak, and live positive and to avoid conflict: Paaqłaktautaiñfiq.

Prior to meeting with the Governor, I engaged North Slope leadership at a meeting and teleconference in Barrow. I also engaged four prior Mayors and their advisors to benefit from all the institutional knowledge available to our people. I met with Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) as well, and their advisors to consider the best strategy in opposition of this proposal.

The message is clear; **Atautchimukta! We are unified and confident in our efforts to fight for the resources and rights of the Iñupiat people.** I reminded the Governor that we have fought for nearly five decades to protect our taxing authority and we've relied on this revenue in our region to dramatically improve our quality of life – it supports everything from public safety in our communities, education, transportation, subsistence rights, and to also provide reliable power and heat. These are services that the Borough has provided on behalf of the State and there are no guarantees in the bill that the State ever fulfills such obligations.

We thought these kind of baseless attacks were over, but once again we are fighting for our existence and self-determination. This attempt to balance a state budget on the backs of the Iñupiat people is a misguided and ill-advised attack on our region.

In our meeting with the Governor, we expressed the very detrimental financial impacts even proposing this legislation may have on the North Slope Borough's bond rating; not to mention how we deal with the bond obligations this legislation would negate if it proceeds. I also expressed to the Governor and several legislators we met that for decades, we have supported safe and responsible natural resource development on the North Slope because of the economic benefits the industry brings to our communities. **I was very firm in my resolve to oppose this legislation if it comes out of committee.**

We still have a lot to do, but it is also important that we do not reveal exactly what we have in our war chest. There is speculation that a compromise is being discussed; I am assuring you that this is not true. The impacts of this bill reach far beyond just the North Slope; we are working with municipal leaders from around the state to consider how we will respond if the legislation is re-introduced in some form. We are even considering pre-emptive strategies to keep it from happening again.

As Mayor, I will do everything in my power to protect our tax base so that we continue to provide our North Slope communities with essential services for all of our residents; business opportunities for regional and village corporations; supplemental funding for tribal and city governments and most importantly, our children's future.

Quyanaqpak!

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

The **Department of Public Works** is working with the Health Department to repurpose the senior vans in each of the outlying communities to operate an airport shuttle and limited transit route throughout the village. Vehicles lower to the ground, such as Ford Explorers will be used to service the Senior Program. Vacant administrative positions in Barrow will be eliminated to create Transit Driver positions in each outlying village to operate this new program.

High winds in Kaktovik on February 12, took down a transformer causing a power outage affecting 30 homes. Once weather cleared on February 13, Search and Rescue flew in a lineman to address the outage. Work proceeded through the night and power was restored on the morning of February 14. When power was lost, staff informed the homeowners to open and drain the water pipes to lessen the damage of a freeze-up. All Water & Sewer services are back online to homes. One home was vacant and the homeowner couldn't be reached. NSB has a plumbing contractor onsite now to address the freeze-up damage on that home. One older home had copper pipes that froze and received damage. The homeowner is working with Risk Management.

CIPM Project Administrators worked with village Public Works Supervisors and Power Plant Operators to address issues and improve efficiency on project upgrades and construction operations for the power plant in Anaktuvuk Pass and the activities on the airport in Nuiqsut. Brice Construction began hauling materials to the Nuiqsut Airport for this summer's construction.

The **Housing Department** coordinates with the Village Supervisors in each community to assure that we are keeping up with Housing issues slope wide. We have begun occupying the Senior 5 Plexs in

Nuiqsut, Pt. Hope, Wainwright, Kaktovik & Anaktuvuk Pass. We are working with the NSB Law Department on a Renovation Loan Program that should be made available to the general public this spring.

The **Fire Department** continues to partner with local organizations to promote community fire safety and rescue response. This month the Fire Dept. spent time with crews from the UIC Gravel Pit as well as TNHA's M&O Division. Topics addressed included: the proper techniques for moving victims in emergency situations, tourniquet training, CPR, NARCAN Kits, and standard Fire Department Operations.

The North Slope Fire Departments continue to offer courtesy inspections for residential and commercial properties in all of our communities. During these inspections we are able to talk about fire and life safety topics, as well as ensuring smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms are functioning properly.

Below are the details of 234 Ambulance calls, 12 Fire Calls and 32 Medevac Transports:

Village	Ambulance Calls	Fire Calls	Medevac Transp.	ETOH	Drugs
Anaktuvuk Pass	22	1	1	1	0
Atqasuk	8	1	1	0	0
Wainwright	39	2	1	0	0
Kaktovik	4	1	0	0	0
Nuiqsut	31	0	8	1	0
Point Hope	36	1	2	2	0
Point Lay	19	1	1	0	0
Utqiagvik	75	5	20	15	1
Totals	234	12	34	19	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 5 related rescue activities performed last month:

1/29/19	AIN	AK19006859, 1 person traveling Barrow to Wainwright, broke down with his Snow machine, communicating with In-reach to AIN SAR for Assistance, SAR assisted in getting him home , no injuries reported, Closed
1/30/19	BRW	Ak19007161 reported of overdue hunter hunting in the Gas field area, air asset used went to reported area no person located, went to Imaksaun landed and communicated with Ground crew, in communication went to known hunting area found His snow machine and sled, person made it home. No reported injuries, Closed
1/31/2019	PHO	Ak19007362, PLB Alert, PHO SAR team went to location of beacon, found person with Broken snow machine, no report of injury, brought him back to Point hope ,Closed
2/7/2019	BRW	AK19009002 person broke down with snow machine traveling from Atqasuk to Barrow, was picked up and no injuries reported, Closed
2/17/2019	PIZ	AK19011511, received a call From Point lay SAR, one person over due from a day trip, last seen heading south from his home, ground crew went out found person at a cabin, didn't have gas to make it home. All back in PIZ, no reported injuries, Closed

NSB Aircraft logged 148.9.3 hrs. of flight time performing 51 sorties; details are provided below:

Aircraft	Sorties	Hours	Other
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Learjet N789SR	18	63.3	Performed minor maintenance, that required put it out of service for 5 days. Has 279.7 hours until Phase inspection & Engine MID POINT INSPECTION at this rate, could be due in August 2019.
Bell N402ES	6	8.4	Primary 412 ready to go. Annual 93.5 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	19	58.4	Aircraft was down 3 times, cabin heat discrepancy and R/H Engine over temp inspection. Phase 1 Inspection is due in 141.9 hours.
S-92	8	18.8	Aircraft was down for once for scheduled maintenance. Next 50 hour inspection is in 50.0 hours.
Total	51	148.9	

The **Police Department** Officers and staff continue to work with other departments and local organizations to build relationships with community members and to protect and serve our communities. NSBPD Officers and staff attend and participate in community and school events including coaching for the Little Dribblers program.

The NSBPD in partnership with the North Slope Borough School District promotes the Blue Angels Dance/Cheer program. Participants range in grade from Kindergarten to 5th. The Blue Angels are making plans to perform at this month's State Basketball tournament in Anchorage.

During the month of February 2019, the Police Department responded to 2,190 calls for service during which 88 criminal and noncriminal cases were filed. 130 of the calls were alcohol related, 12 calls were drug related, and 44 calls were domestic violence related. 853 calls were dispatched and 1,337 calls were officer initiated. A total of 38 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney for prosecution.

Call Breakdown:

Community	Total Calls	Alcohol	DV	Drug
Anaktuvuk Pass	162	12	1	3
Atkasuk	48	2	2	0
Kaktovik	94	2	0	0
Nuiqsut	194	7	4	2
Point Hope	194	8	5	1
Point Lay	126	1	1	0
Deadhorse	139	1	0	0
Utqiagvik	1067	95	29	6
Wainwright	166	2	2	0
Total	2190	130	44	12

Alcohol Seizures:

Community	Distilled Spirits (750ml)	Wine	Beer (12oz)	Malt (12oz)
Anaktuvuk Pass	12	0	0	0
Atqasuk	0	0	0	0
Kaktovik	0	0	0	0
Nuiqsut	0	0	0	0
Point Hope	0	0	0	0
Point Lay	0	0	0	0
Deadhorse	0	0	0	0
Utqiagvik	0	0	0	0
Wainwright	0	0	0	0

Drug Seizures:

Community	Marijuana	Hash Oil	Fentanyl	Cocaine	Heroin	Methamphetamine
Anaktuvuk Pass	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atqasuk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaktovik	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuiqsut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Point Hope	0	0	0	0	0	0
Point Lay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deadhorse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utqiagvik	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wainwright	0	0	0	0	0	0

Task Forces:

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

Total Alcohol:

- 83 (750ml) bottles of Distilled Spirits

Total Drugs:

- 500 marijuana plants
- 13,663 grams of processed marijuana
- 1160.64 grams of Methamphetamine
- 201.6 grams of Heroin
- .7 grams of MDMA
- 6 units of Dextroamphetamine
- 2000 units of Oxycodone
- 5180 units of Tramadol
- 2000 units of Xanax

The **Department of Human Resources** is working with Meritain Interactive Health who will be providing on-site health evaluations this month in all communities. Biometric screenings will be offered at no cost for NSB employees, their spouses, and dependents eighteen and older. In addition to the biometric screening, these individuals will have opportunity to work with a Health Coach over the phone to work toward achieving health goals.

Below are the following recruiting statistics to report:

Community	BRW	AKP	ATQ	KAK	NUI	PHO	AIN	PIZ
Permanent	10	2	0	1	1	1	0	1
Temporary	20	3	0	0	0	1	1	6
ETP	4	1	0	0	0	3	1	0
Interns	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The **Health Department** IBH staff attended a training on Restorative Practices provided by the NSB School District at Kiita Learning Community. Restorative Practices is a social science that studies how to improve and repair relationships between people and communities. The purpose is to build healthy communities, increase social capital, decrease crime and antisocial behavior, repair harm and restore relationships.

Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) continues to search for individuals passionately interested in working as a health aide and has an interest in helping our North Slope communities grow healthy and strong in mind and body. For more information on how you can become a health aide in your community, please contact the CHAP at 907.852.0256.

Children and Youth Services will be making village trips to Kaktovik, Point Hope, and Anaktuvuk Pass to host family reunification activities as well as additional parenting classes. CYS staff have also been providing outpatient services to clients in order to facilitate family reunification.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** NSB Area Wide Census activity continues. Planning Department has contracted with AES (utilizing the PID contract in place for Comprehensive Planning). A team has been developed and are conducting census data. Our goal is to complete all data acquisition this month.

Planning Director Gordon Brower joined Mayor Brower in meeting the new Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner Feige on February 6 regarding our MOU. Deputy Commissioner Longan, and Office of Project Management and Permitting Director Faith Martineau were also in attendance. Our next meeting will be on March 13.

Planning has engaged with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding MOU activities and the scheduling of quarterly meetings with Mayor Brower and Commissioner MacKinnon. We are looking into the possibility of a joint meetings with the DNR/DOT Commissioner.

DNR has approved the permit for Mine Site F, and we are in the final stages of Corps of Engineers (COE) review for final approval. Planning traveled to Prudhoe Bay on February 13-14 for a meet and greet and improved communication with BP representatives and their environmental staff and pit supervisor. BP is the operator for both sides of the Put 23 material site. Discussions included an update of Put 23 lifespan, remaining gravel quality and potential future gravel needs (NSB, BP, 3rd Party); and intrusion risk of the Put River and potential remediation plans if intrusion occurs. We anticipate a new material sale agreement from BP for 250,000 yards of gravel in the near future. A tour of Minesite F and Oxbow Landfill this summer was discussed.

Our CWAT trail is currently packed in all permitted areas. Trail activity is in full swing and caravans have begun.

Wildlife Department plans are underway for conducting an ice-based bowhead whale survey in April-May 2019. Staff will begin cutting trail and perch building by late February or early March. The plan is to begin counting bowheads by April 1.

Staff are attempting to conduct two surveys in 2019 to improve our chances of obtaining a new bowhead population estimate before the IWC deadline in 2021. The IWC requests that we have a new bowhead estimate every 10 years and our last successful survey was in 2011.

This month the 2017 and 2018 caribou harvest surveys were conducted in Atqasuk. This was a successful survey where staff went to all the households listed and a majority of households participated in the survey. Staff are continuing to work on the caribou and Alaska migratory bird harvest surveys.

Department Staff are working closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to conduct an aerial survey across the Alaskan and Canadian Beaufort Sea in August 2019. Our Department's primary role in this effort is to communicate and obtain permission from the Inuvialuit in northwestern Canada so that the survey will have as little impact on hunters or subsistence species. Staff met with the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee and have their approval for the project.

The NSB Fish and Game Management Committee held its annual meeting in Utqiagvik on February 20-21, 2019.

Inupiat Culture History and Language held its 20th Anniversary Open House on February 11, 2019. It was a successful evening of celebration with new exhibits and over 60 attendees.

Ivalu workshops continued meeting three times a week and concluded on February 28. Sewing Gatherings in the Multipurpose Room are being held in March.

The Productions Division is making DVD copies from the IHLC digital video archives. Village Oral Historians are planning to host events for the communities to view and assist in the identification of people and activities in those films. The Production Division also posted four (4) Five Minute Friday clips on social media, and processed 126 new Rosetta Stone App registrations.