

North Slope Borough

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor *gab*
DATE: October 13, 2015
SUBJ: September Status Report

Good evening Assembly Members and listening audience.

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

The **Mayor's Office** Division of Government and External Affairs hosted Governor Bill Walker to showcase damage from last month's storm and to highlight the need to protect the community from coastal flooding and erosion. Governor Walker met with the Mayor and staff from Public Works, Search and Rescue, Accounting and Finance/Risk Management to understand the issues from each department's perspective. In addition to touring the damage by air, Governor Walker was escorted on a ground tour of impacted areas.

Government and External Affairs also hosted U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski along with Senators John Barrasso (R-WY) and Mike Rounds (R-SD) and their spouses. The Senators made a stop in Barrow on their way home from touring Arctic research and military facilities in Norway and Greenland. The Senators were shown a video showcasing the fall storm and flooding event and were briefed on the Borough's concerns about a breach of the old Barrow landfill and sewage lagoon. A study was presented to the Senators that highlighted the decades of U.S. Government waste disposed at those sites that are at risk from erosion. The Department of Search and Rescue conducted the Senators on an aerial overflight of the community while staff from Public Works and Risk Management provided a ground tour of Barrow, Browerville and the utilidor system

The **Department of Inupiat History, Language & Culture (IHLC)** is collaborating with ASRC and UIC to promote the use of the Rosetta Stone program. 2,000 copies of the program were purchased through ASRC. IHLC will be hosting training on the use of the Rosetta Stone program on November 5th at the Iñupiat Heritage Center. The Iñupiaq dictionary is now available for purchase through Amazon, and they are working with the University of Alaska Press to ensure that a Kindle edition becomes available. The human remains that surfaced Mound 44 (Ukkuqsi), a mandible and five cervical vertebrae, are now enroute to the Native Village of Barrow for reburial, many thanks to all

the organizations and persons who assisted in securing the site as much as possible. Residents are encouraged to donate artifacts by contacting either Diana Martin or Mary Timm. IHLC does not purchase artifacts unless there is a specific need for an object for an exhibit, but they are very happy to take donations.

In addition to its normal workload, the **Department of Public Works** replaced missing signs in Anaktuvuk Pass following a concern reported last month. The Department also wanted to provide the following status updates on storm damaged areas in Barrow. There are still closures near the Sadie Neakok playground and Piqniq Road, we would like to remind residents to be aware of posted signs and avoid these areas if at all possible.

The **Department of Administration & Finance** has fiscal year 2015 (FY15) Audit work ongoing, but staff from KPMG has completed their first ten day site visit. Work will continue on audit and we are on track to complete the audit by early December. The new utility plant and landfill expansion at Service Area 10 (SA10) are nearing substantial completion. While staff continues to work with contractors to iron out the final bugs, we are planning a grand opening celebration in Deadhorse on October 27, 2015.

The **Department of Search and Rescue's** aircraft were utilized a total of 108.5 hours. There were 21 Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), Search & Rescue Activities, or Welfare Checks since the last report. All of the cases were closed out with no reported injuries and all parties returning safely home. This was an incredibly busy month and we again want to thank our volunteers and encourage individuals to check out Personal Locator Beacon's prior to making trips out.

The **Police Department** responded to 2,178 calls for service during which 88 incident reports were filed. 107 of the calls were alcohol related. 874 calls were dispatched and 1,304 calls were officer initiated. There were 61 traffic related contacts during which 11 citations were written. A total of 32 criminal cases were submitted to the District Attorney. Officers seized a total of 57.05 liters of alcohol, 14 ounces of marijuana, 1910.8 grams (2 pounds) of cocaine, 155.3 grams of heroin and 13.4 pounds of methamphetamine. In Anaktuvuk Pass officers coordinated with the City of Anaktuvuk Pass the delivery of a moose confiscated in Bettels by the State Troopers for distribution to the community. In Point Hope the officer attended a community seminar promoting community conversations and research to end suicide. Please also join us in congratulating Lt. Brymer, who graduated from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety's School of Police Staff and Command program.

The **Fire Department** is proud to announce that they have received accreditation from the State of Alaska to teach Fire Service Instructor-II and State of Alaska Fire Officer-I trainings. This accomplishment is a mile stone marker for the department and they will continue to gain accreditation to improve our abilities to provide local training opportunities in all of the communities. The Department held Firefighter-II and Fire Officer-I trainings in September. Across the slope there were 274 ambulance calls and 13 fire calls. There were also 17 medevacs completed in the month of August.

The **Human Resources Department** has begun their On the Job Training (OJT) Program; to date 11 students have placed in Barrow and 3 in Wainwright. The rest of the communities' liaisons are working with Counselors to discuss OJT placement and students' area of interest. The Training &

Development Division offered 14 Trainings this month. The Mayor's Job Program cycle has begun and 13 individuals were hired in September – current placements include 12 in Point Hope, 8 in Barrow, 5 in Atkasuk, 5 in Nuiqsut, 5 in Wainwright, 4 in Anaktuvuk Pass, 3 in Kaktovik and 1 in Pt. Lay.

The **Department of Planning and Community Services** issued 3 Notice of Violations. All three violations were for damage to or removal of tundra as results of equipment being utilized or becoming stuck. Two of the violations also included failure to report tundra damage or disturbance within 24 hours. As a reminder, any permitted area is required to report tundra damage or disturbance to the Planning Department, we appreciate our partners who adhere to our reporting guidelines and are active in remediating as a result.

The **Department of Health and Social Services**, September 21st, 2015 Integrated Behavioral Health launched a new expanded substance abuse program, which offers nine total groups per week and two monthly groups. The Health Department Billing Program has been moving forward steadily and is now using its credit card machine regularly for Vet Clinic, Senior Program, Assisted Living, and Childcare program. The Health Department Prevention Program in partnership with ANTHC has been awarded a grant for strengthening tobacco prevention and cessation in the North Slope. This grant focuses on encouraging cessation technics utilized by local providers and increasing prevention efforts. Public Health Nursing's Nellie Gomez a Client Services Assistant was awarded "The Local Impact Award" through the National Indian Health Board on September 23rd in Washington DC. for her contributions to advancing American Indian and Alaska Native Health. Nellie has worked for the Health Department since 2001 and been an integral part of improving the health of our communities we serve through her work at the Wellness Center and through her strong ties to the communities.

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