

North Slope Borough

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Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor

MEMORANDUM

TO: North Slope Borough Assembly
FROM: Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor *Charlotte E. Brower*
DATE: July 1, 2014
SUBJ: Status Report

The month of June was another busy month for my administration, and I am proud and humbled by the hard work and accomplishments of my administration to further our shared vision for continued direct benefit and service to the residents of the North Slope Borough. We all know that our shared vision of Unity Then, Unity Now is what has made our progress so remarkable in the thousands of years we have been in our homeland of no artificial boundaries. But while we are blessed with many resources, we know that we have much work in front of us. In June we had a very poignant and memorable meeting in Point Lay when a very special leader at the young age of eight appeared before us and told us in no uncertain terms that ACTION is needed NOW to once and for all deal with the issues of homelessness and the impacts of rapid climate change in our region.

I appreciate and commend every one of you as elected officials for your high expectations of my administration to meet the true purpose of our home rule government; to improve the quality of life for our residents. So as we are fond of saying in our subsistence way of life with "All Hands!" my administration worked even harder to relieve some of the very real pressures of homelessness, less than adequate living conditions and most of all, to keep up our courage and perseverance to "keep on keeping on". We all know that it's especially difficult during election years to stay strong and focused on our goals, and I am blessed with strong and resilient top management in our borough.

In response to this urgent call for action, the recent accomplishments of the **Department of Administration & Finance** to aggressively seek financial security for our borough laid the foundation for the work we did in the month of June. Our additional resources helped us to move forward to improve the quality of life for each of our communities especially in housing and essential services. I want to personally thank **Director Reed O'Hair** for his many years of service to our people and respect his resignation as **Director of Administration & Finance**. **Director O'Hair**, through his quiet ways exemplified the gentle spirit of our people and like the Directors preceding his position, stayed true to the purpose of the borough and we all know that each and every day, his work was always centered on improving the quality of life for every single one of our residents. While we are sad to see Director O'Hair leave our day-to-day operations, we are assured that he will continue to support and assist us when needed. Quyanaqpak and Taikuu, Director O'Hair for your many years of

dedicated service to our people. As all of us know, **Rob Elkins** has been a dedicated servant to our government, and I did not hesitate to request him to step up as **Director of Administration and Finance**. As many of us in the administration can attest, we know Rob's hard work in the past eleven years ensure us that he has the best interest of the borough in his heart, and I trust that he will do his best to serve our communities.

Throughout the month of June, the **Department of Public Works** continued to address the many serious problems of our aging infrastructure with regards to roads, water & sewer, power & lights and natural gas. Our extenuating circumstances in these areas that directly impact life, health and safety is a high priority in my administration. The cumulative effects of rapid environmental changes is one of the biggest challenges I have had to face in my administration. I have made changes that may be challenged by some, but I feel that my decisions are in the best interests of our borough.

In this light, as you may know I have had to make adjustments in my administration including the appointment of **Hubert Hopson** as **Director of CIPM**. I want to thank Director Hopson for his support and understanding of what we need in our region and as you all know he brings many years of experience as a lifelong employee of the North Slope Borough. Quyanaqpak Hubert for your dedication to the people of the North Slope.

I have also made changes in the Capital Improvements Program within the **Department of Planning & Community Services**. Capital Improvements are the heart of our infrastructure and I intend to do all that I can to ensure that essential services are rectified and maintained for everyone.

To best support our **Director of Planning & Community Services** and to utilize the best talent that we have, **Gordon Brower** now serves as **Assistant to the Director**, freeing him from day to day administration to focus on oil and gas development in the region. Gordon's many years as an employee in Planning and his extensive knowledge of the land is vital to the work on the Comprehensive Plan. **Wiley Contrades** has accepted the position of **Deputy Director for Planning** and along with **Arnold Brower, Jr.**, the combination of this talent will ensure that we move forward in a strong and positive direction. The NSB Comprehensive Plan is in full swing, and the Energy Plan is now gaining momentum as all stakeholders are engaged to ensure we are traveling forward for our future generations. I want to take this time to thank the **Planning Commission** for their continued hard work to help our region meet the ever-increasing needs of our communities.

The **Department of Health and Social Services** continues to make great gains in quality care for our residents. A huge accomplishment was the accreditation for the Behavioral Health program and we are very proud of the staff under the leadership of **Director Leavitt**.

A lot of work continues throughout the departments to improve the quality of life in our communities, from subsistence meetings to childcare services. I am proud of our accomplishments and hard work. Quyanaqpak to all the hard working employees across the borough.

This concludes my summary report for the month of June.