



February 25, 2014

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Alaska House of Representatives
120 4th Street
State Capitol Rm 410
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Edgmon:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I am writing to express a "no action" decision from our organization regarding HB 199, "An Act relating to Department of Public Safety regulations allowing village public safety officers to carry firearms."

The APOA Board of Directors recently reviewed this proposed legislation along with SB 98 and evaluated a survey from which over 100 of our members who are actively engaged in law enforcement responded with a wide range of diverse views and opinions. Safety of the VPSO while on duty is of major concern however appropriate training and standards are at the forefront. While conceptually, there is broad support from our organization to authorize the arming of VPSO, there is also strong sentiment that any such measure must include significant screening, training and qualification standards. Since those elements are not present, we cannot support this measure in its current form.

Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515, if there is anything our organization can do to assist you in your work for our state.

Sincerely,

Brad Johnson
State President