



*Ethan Berkowitz,
Mayor*

ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Headquarters
4501 Elmore Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1599
Telephone (907) 786-8500 / Fax (907) 786-8638



*Chris Tolley
Chief*

MAR 15 2016

The Honorable Dennis Egan
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Anchorage Police Department (APD) in support for SB 187, Motor Vehicle Arson on Private Property, which was introduced by you on 02/19/2016.

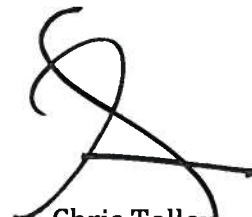
The APD believes that Senate Bill 187 eliminates an unforeseen loophole created in 2008 when House Bill 268 was originally created.

In short the existing law restricts enforcement to vehicles geographically located on government lands thus eliminating law enforcement charging an individual for intentionally setting another person's vehicle on fire which is located on private property.

In one case a female was sitting in a vehicle not owned by her in the parking lot of Carrs Gambell in Anchorage. A witness took photographs of her setting a fire in the vehicle prior to leaving. The female was charged with a felony criminal mischief. Her conviction of record now reflects a felony criminal mischief. Although a felony was obtained the conviction doesn't accurately reflect that she intentionally used fire as a destructive weapon to destroy another person's property.

Upon passage of this bill, it will correct this error, improve record keeping, and permit proper charging by law enforcement. This bill will also allow a person's criminal history to reflect an arson conviction and provide for proper sentencing evaluation on future fire related offenses.

Thank you for your consideration.



Chris Tolley
Chief of Police