

# Alaska Department of Public Safety

## 2025 Key Objectives

### **Recruitment, Retention, & Wellness**

Fill all open positions, both commissioned and civilian, with qualified employees. Ensure that we are retaining staff through modern wellness initiatives, excellent working conditions, and exceptional compensation and benefits.

### **Rural Alaska Law Enforcement & Safety**

Prioritize resources, personnel, and support to provide quality, full-service law enforcement to rural Alaska. Increase proactive village patrols and the number of Troopers deployed to rural Alaska. Prioritize fire safety inspections and education in rural Alaska to prevent fire-related deaths. Add five additional Village or Regional Public Safety Officers working in rural Alaska.

### **Establish Parks Hwy North Trooper Post**

Reestablish an Alaska State and Wildlife Trooper post in the Trapper Creek / Talkeetna area to provide for better response times, proactive patrols, and increased safety. There are 160 heavily traveled road miles between Trooper posts in Cantwell and Wasilla that are not proactively patrolled today with 2,500 calls for service annually.

### **Purchase Long Range Response Aircraft**

Improve our response time to emergencies, natural disasters, and law enforcement investigations by adding an additional long range, gravel strip capable aircraft to the DPS aircraft fleet such as a Pilatus PC-12.

### **Illicit Drug & Child Abuse Investigations**

Ensure that narcotics, child sexual abuse, and major crimes are thoroughly investigated throughout Alaska, and add three investigators to Northwest Alaska to investigate child abuse. Work with local, state, and federal partners to dismantle drug trafficking and bootlegging organizations.

### **Fisheries and Wildlife Resource Protection**

Protection of Alaska's multi-billion dollar fish and wildlife resources from illegal harvest through enforcement across urban and rural Alaska, and between commercial, subsistence, personal use, and sport user groups.

*Loyalty. Compassion. Integrity.*



*Leadership. Courage. Accountability.*

**Alaska Department of Public Safety**

*Commissioner James Cockrell*

# Alaska Department of Public Safety

## 2019-24 Accomplishments

### Reduced Crime & Increased Drug Seizures

The violent crime rate for Alaska has fallen 17.45% since 2018, including a 27.41% decrease in sexual assaults known to law enforcement. The overall crime rate has dropped 37.48% since 2018. Drug seizures are up 733% since 2018.

### Revitalized the VPSO Division

With the support of the Governor and Legislature, DPS has revitalized the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) division. There were 79 filled VPSO positions in 2024 compared to just 42 in 2020. DPS established Regional Public Safety Officer positions with expanded geographic authority to serve rural communities.

### Refocused Trooper Recruitment & Retention

DPS has refocused our efforts on State Trooper recruitment by establishing a new recruitment manager position, hiring new Troopers faster than ever before, and pairing recruits up with mentors that guide them through the application, academy, and field training processes. DPS improved retention of Troopers by establishing the top law enforcement wellness program in the state and working to keep State Trooper positions adequately compensated compared to other Alaska law enforcement officers.

### Improved Safety for Alaska Natives

DPS has greatly improved our commitment to Alaska Native communities since 2018. We established a major crimes investigative unit in Western Alaska, a Child Abuse Investigative Unit in the Yukon - Kuskokwim Region, and now have four dedicated Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Investigators. DPS hired two Tribal Liaisons to ensure that Alaska Native communities have a dedicated resource to ensure their voices are heard within the department.

### Coordinated Direct Victim Services

DPS has rethought our direct victim services to ensure that every contact that is had with a victim of a crime is coordinated and deliberate. DPS hired Victim and Witness Navigators throughout Alaska to guide crime victims through the criminal justice process. DPS increased staffing in the Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB) to ensure that claims for VCCB funding were processed in a timely manner.

*Loyalty. Compassion. Integrity.*



*Leadership. Courage. Accountability.*

**Alaska Department of Public Safety**

*Commissioner James Cockrell*